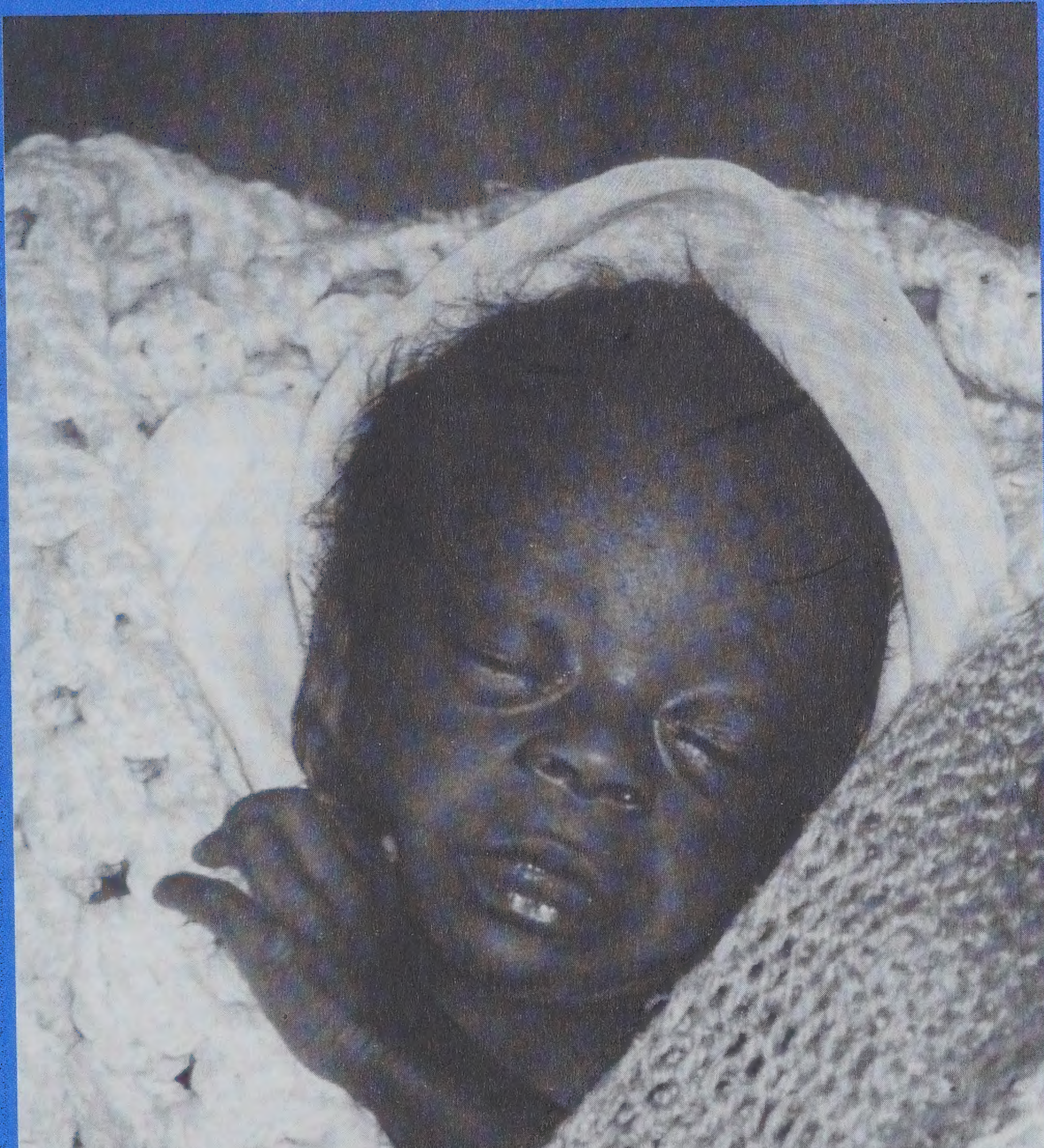
Glad Tidings

January/February 2002



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A Faith to Die For!

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Glad Tidings

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

January 2002

Two Steps Forward, One Step Backwards

Many of you, dear and faithful readers, have been unhappy over the lateness of the Glad Tidings magazine. I am not too happy either. It seems sometimes as if we move two steps forwards, then one backwards. If any one thing goes wrong along the line of production, we can lose a week in the process. If two things go wrong, then we've got a problem. Add to the mix, normal holidays; allow for some illness, other meetings, and "there's trouble in River City!"

Early in the year I began to move towards DTP - *Direct to Plate* - this being the way to go with publications today. Direct to Plate means everything on the magazine can go from my computer to the plate that goes on the printing press. This eliminates the film process, among other things, and saves money and time. The resulting product is a much sharper image. Compare the last three issues of 2001 to the first three and you will see the difference. It is especially noticeable in the type.

We have the technology here at the office to do this work so it should be a piece of cake, right? Wrong! It turns out there just aren't enough hours in the day to do everything that needs to be done. For me, as editor it meant a lot of new learning. Then that learning had to be applied.

When I speak to groups around the country, I discover that many of you think there is a large staff here at Glad Tidings. People are surprised to discover that there are two of us. Katherine Allen, Circulation Manager, handles all aspects of the circulation - new subscribers, changes in address, deletions and so on. As editor, I handle everything editorial - soliciting and gathering material, editing, copy typing, ads, plus art, photographs and layout.

Many of you wonder why our deadline for material is two months ahead of the date of issue. For example, if you want something in the March issue, we have to have it here in the office on January 1st. Ideally it should take three weeks to get everything ready (typing, editing, and so on), and three weeks for the printing and mailing process. (Not forgetting that work is always being done on future issues.) In an ideal world the March/April magazine would be in your mailbox the last week of February.

I ask for your prayers and understanding as we here at the office adjust to the present challenges. Next month you will hear about changes in the circulation process!

Along the Journey to Conviction

Is Your Faith '*to Die for*'?!

by Roberta G. McClelland

Roberta and "Harvey"

A Challenge in These Post-September 11 Days

There are some Christians who change your life through their life-long process of witnessing to faith, and then there are those who meet you once and turn your faith world upside down with only a few words. The day that I met the radical Jesus who commanded me (and commands me still), "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent" (Acts 18:9), was the day that I was on the spiritually charged receiving end of the latter. I will never forget it.

Fifteen years ago I was attending a retreat for the international aid group that I worked with. On the second day of the three-day retreat a minister from New York spoke to us about our spiritual ancestors, the early Christians. They clung to their faith and often suffered and died for it amid a hostile, anti-Christian community in the years following Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

Over and over again he spoke about the tremendous courage that it took to be a Christian during this sweepingly brutal time of mass Christian intolerance and persecution. Christians were regularly arrested, convicted, tortured, and executed for their beliefs. Faith at that moment in time, he told us, was a choice that you made in the very real shadow of violence and death. It was a choice that told the world that your faith was worth everything, and that, while you wanted to live for it, you were willing to die for it.

Then this minister from New York uttered the seventeen simple words that changed my life, and that have never left me since. We all sat in silence, transfixed in our own thoughts about our spiritual ancestors' heroic faith, and their harrowing efforts to live and die for that faith.

He quietly turned our thoughts around to face the comparative faith of our own hearts and our own lives as he asked, "If you were arrested today for being a Christian, would they have enough evidence to convict you?"

That retreat was fifteen years ago and yet I still think about it, and measure my life against the standard of those seventeen powerful words.

The degree to which those provocative words have actually taken root both in myself and in my life has been tested many times since then. In some of these instances they have withered beneath the contention of the moment.

For example, not long ago, as I helped a customer search through the religious section in the bookstore where I work, she abruptly (and angrily), declared, "The

Bible isn't really the Word of God. It's just the word of man seeking God. "I was horrified.

But even though I was taken greatly aback by the serious and destructive spiritual inaccuracy of her words, I said nothing in reply. I was afraid of her sharp tone and the anger that resonated in it.

She left the store that day unchallenged in her beliefs because I didn't want her to know mine. And because, more than anything else, I didn't want this angry woman to confront me in them.

In other instances, however, those words have flourished when I have willed myself to stand up to that contention. Several years ago an uncle of mine was going through a very stressful period as his brother battled a serious illness. This particular uncle is a vehement atheist who attacks any aspect of Christianity that comes within fifty feet of him.

At a dinner party, while his brother was sick, I brought it a lot closer. As we stood among family I asked how his brother was doing, and he mumbled a terse, "Not well." With one quick breath I looked directly into his defiant eyes and said evenly, "I am praying for him." The room around us fell into an anxious silence as we all braced for his response. "It won't do any good," he hissed slowly. As he turned on his heels to walk to the bar I let my beliefs be clearly known as I answered, "I believe it will."

He kept an angry, and rigid distance from me for the rest of that night, and even though his brother did recover fully from his illness, he has never again spoken to me about prayer. But I know that he has never forgotten.

"If you were arrested today for being a Christian, would they have enough evidence to convict you?"

In all of these instances, the dilemma as to whether or not I will make the evidence of my beliefs public has never been an easy one for me. I've found that the challenge which was set before me fifteen years ago is in direct conflict with my own fear of confrontation. As a result I struggle at each moment in which I know that I am being called to give voice to what I believe, with the choice between giving the world the evidence that it needs to convict me of my own Christianity, or hiding it from them to keep the peace.

"If you were arrested today for being a Christian, would they have enough evidence to convict you?" It's a life-long question, and the answer is a life-long process. It takes courage to be the kind of Christian who can be easily convicted of his or her faith. Sometimes I don't live up to that courage (as with the lady in the bookstore), and sometimes I do (as with my uncle). But what matters most is that I have never stopped thinking about the question - the invitation - to be courageously and openly Christian in a world that is resistant, and sometimes even hostile to the standards of faith.

In the end I believe that this is the real reason for my being here, at this moment, on this journey towards God, and that the measure of my life will inevitably be taken by this one standard when I stand before God and am judged accordingly.

Can I or can I not be convicted of my Christianity? Although this is a question that came from a minister whom I met only once, it continues to act as both my compass and the source of my drive to answer in the joyful affirmative more and more often every day. It is a hopeful question, rather than a condemning one, and even though I do stumble and/or freeze from time to time, I know that I am steadily growing into the role of a "convictable" Christian. I am less and less afraid. I am speaking more often now than I am silent, and the radical Jesus whom I met that day through a wise and wonderful minister, has become a vital and beloved Saviour and friend along the journey to conviction.

> *Faith at that moment in time was a choice that you made in the very real shadow of violence and death.*

Breaching

We are this landscape
of climatic chill, steamed breath.
Snowfields with rows
of golden cornstalks surfacing
above the white wash
like petrified seaweed.
Trees are sharpened
black pencils etching the dove-grey air.
Beyond, lines and lines of clouds
rungs of a ladder we climb
toward some dome;
Some incandescent galaxy
we call grace.

Joan Bond

Landmarks

There are some who travel to distant shores
where beauty lies in silent pools of emerald green
and silver bursts of moondust thread the stars at night
There are some who roam the sandy dune
to leave their name engraved
in burnished sunlit splendour

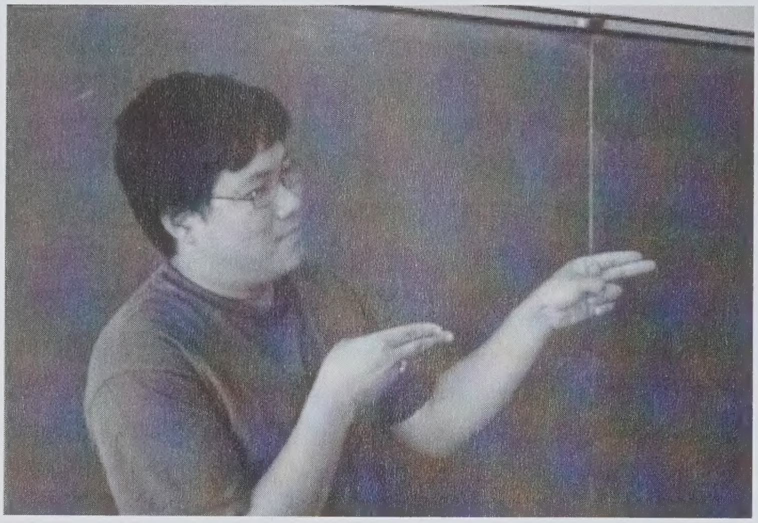
But I who never journey far
nor follow adventure's lure
am ever thankful for things I see
for tiny feet that pound their rhythm round my dreams
and color scenes of everyday with fleeting magic smiles

There are some who talk with desert men
and hear how harsh winds beat the earth
and whip the barren land
And yet I hear the strangest tales from tiny lips
of gnomes and fairies weaving spells
of wicked things that lurk in homes
and dare to hide beneath the narrow bed

Yes, I who never share the past of mystic captive kings
nor walk through ancient Aztec tombs housing ancient dreams
have built within my heart a shrine
of treasures beyond price
of impish grins and dimpled cheeks
tiny hands that bring me gifts
of worms
and rocks
and things.

I brave the harshest climate when tempers are unfurled
shed tears that flow from deep within
they carve ridges in my soul
I watch the radiant dawn burst forth in love's forgiving smile
while lodged within this heart of mine
lie landmarks of this child . . .

Barbara Mitchell



The Revival of Storytelling

by G. Fred Ash

Storytelling. Jesus did it. The Old Testament prophets did it. The Gospel writers did it. If truth be told humans have been telling stories to each other since the dawn of time. In those early days it was simply a matter of sitting around a fire recounting the day's events. Some of those stories were so powerful that they took on a life of their own and became legends. These were passed on from generation to generation. All that was required was a storyteller and a listening ear.

Nowadays humans tell stories much more elaborately - using books, theatre, audio tapes, video tapes, radio broadcasts, television shows, movies and computers. But there is a revival afoot. A renaissance. A rebirth. A return to the simplicity of storytelling by which one person sits (or stands) before a group of listeners and tells them a story - no fancy equipment, no elaborate props, no information technology, just a storyteller and her voice.

Gail Fricker is a professional storyteller who lives in Stratford, Ontario. With an undergraduate degree in theatre from Warwick University in Coventry, England, she toured Europe with her own theatre-company before immigrating to Canada in 1990. She used to think that "the play's the thing" until nine years ago when she was surreptitiously introduced to storytelling by a friend who volunteered her to tell a story at a drama conference they were attending. Six weeks later she was invited to tell a story at a local church.

Gail was converted to the storytelling art - so convinced that this was the way to go that she enrolled in East Tennessee State University (the only North American university offering a degree in storytelling) and graduated with an MA in the story arts.

But a degree is not a prerequisite to being a storyteller. "Everybody has a story to tell," says Gail. "The secret to being a storyteller is simply to start telling stories. The secret to being a good storyteller is to practise, practise, practise."

But where to begin? A person wanting to be a storyteller should first get some basic training in the art. While no Canadian university or college offers a degree in the story arts, a number of them offer courses relating to storytelling. Tyndale

College and Seminary in Toronto, for example, offers, on occasion, the course "Bringing the Bible Alive through Storytelling and Drama."

Students may take the course for credit or audit. Those auditing the course do so for personal interest and not for any degree credit. Tuition for auditing is about half that of credit enrolment. Students range from young people fresh out of high school to retired persons, from those with theatrical experience to those who have never set foot on a stage. If no courses are offered locally, the next option for an aspiring storyteller is to read books on the subject and educate oneself.

Storytelling Revival

"There is a storytelling revival in Canada right now," says Gail, referring to the many folk festivals and community celebrations across the country which feature storytelling as part of the entertainment. "In the Church, storytelling is something new - which is an oxymoron, because Jesus was a storyteller. But as a tool in the worship services it is new. More and more churches are turning to storytelling as a means of communicating their message."

The storytelling revival is cutting across all denominations and generations. Freda Coulter is a 61-year-old grandmother and retired teacher who attends an Anglican church in Unionville, near Toronto. She audited one of Gail's week-long storytelling courses because she likes telling stories to children and wanted to improve her skills for use in children's time during worship.

Rebecca Burditt, 22, attends The Salvation Army in Oshawa. "Storytelling makes the Bible come alive," says Rebecca. "When you use storytelling to communicate the gospel, the message hits you in the face."

Twenty-three-year-old Ken Foo is a pastor-intern at a Chinese Baptist Church in downtown Toronto. He sees storytelling as an effective tool for vacation Bible school and outreach.

Cliff Ford, also 23, is youth pastor at an Alliance church. "The Christian faith is rich with stories, and storytelling is a great way to communicate this faith," he says.

"Storytelling encourages others to tell their own story."

He has visions of using storytelling as part of Christian theatre, worship services and even public theatre.

"Storytelling has much to contribute to the life of the Church," says Gail Fricker. "While 75 per cent of storytellers work with children, storytelling is effective among all generations - and there are some storytellers who work exclusively with adults. Audiences range from preschoolers to seniors. I tell stories in schools, in churches, around campfires, at retreats and in prisons. Anyone willing to listen is an audience."

One of the most effective uses of storytelling is that of healing. A healing story addresses a particular emotional or spiritual need of the audience. Gail sites as examples stories she uses in women's prisons or when addressing persons recovering from alcoholism or abuse.

People suffering emotional and psychological scars from deep personal loss or trauma can sometimes be reached through stories when normal counselling techniques are ineffective. "Storytelling encourages others to tell their own story," explains Gail. "It gives them an opportunity to reflect either on their own lives or on the truths hidden in the story and apply it to their situation."

Oral Tradition

Storytelling is universal. Long before any written languages every culture had its "oral tradition" - stories passed on through the generations. This is what makes Bible stories so easy to tell. The Bible was part of Jewish oral tradition before it was written down. Even the stories of Jesus existed orally for decades before the first written Gospel appeared. Bible stories tell well because they are part of the oral medium.

Storytellers, even Christian storytellers, are not confined to the Bible. Every culture is rich in folktales, myths and legends. Storytellers are free to draw upon these and adapt them as they see fit. Gail has told stories all over the world - Thailand, Japan, Malaysia, the UK, Europe, Africa, the US and Canada - and used folktales from these countries in her repertoire.

"People are open-minded, generally, so that I am able to use a variety of stories - nature, Celtic, Christian," says Gail. She often adapts a folktale without changing the intent of the story; a "witchdoctor" will become a "wise woman," a "river spirit" will become an "angel."

There are challenges to telling stories cross-culturally. The story has to be culturally appropriate. Gail laughs when she recalls telling a story about snow to an audience in equatorial Africa. Translation can be difficult. Gail once told a story in English which had to be translated into a national language by one translator and then translated into a tribal language by another translator. "I was never sure how the final version of that story was perceived," she says.

Living Word

Can storytelling really compete against computers, interactive TV and 3-D movies? Gail Fricker smiles when I ask this question. "Yes," she says. "The storyteller just needs to be more 'on' now-a-days. People still like to hear stories." Her own experiences around the world are evidence enough of that, as are her frequent invitations to tell stories at schools, churches and retreat centres around this country.

Storytelling is personal. It is one-on-one. Even in a larger audience, storytellers speak to individuals, make eye contact and get on the same level as their listeners. In a storytelling situation the listener becomes a participant. In theatre the actors interact with one another while the audience observes. The same is true for movies and television. Computer games lack the personal element, and books are mass produced. When a storyteller is at work, the story is different each time it is told. Some storytellers never write their stories for fear of squeezing the life out of them.

Storytelling is a living art. It is a living word, which may explain why Jesus chose this medium through which to convey His message. And this may also explain the revival of storytelling in today's churches. Jesus did it, and so should we.

Fred Ash is a Salvation Army officer in Toronto. He was an editor of Christian magazines for 13 years and has written hundreds of published articles. He is a part-time student at Tyndale Seminary.

Photographs:

Page 8: Ken Foo, student and pastor-intern, Chinese Baptist Church
Page 9: Small drama group in a dramatic skit with Gail Fricker, instructor, front row centre
Page 10: Freda Coulter, grandmother and student, Anglican Church

Next: The Short Story of Zaccheus

It's Possible

It's possible the world is turning
It's possible the leaves are falling
And winter is hiding in the sky
Autumn in its splendour fading
Winter pending on snowbound feet
It's possible another year is ending
God of comfort, it's you I seek.

Maureen Kowal

Melissa (left) with Ashley.

Melissa Goes to Mistawasis

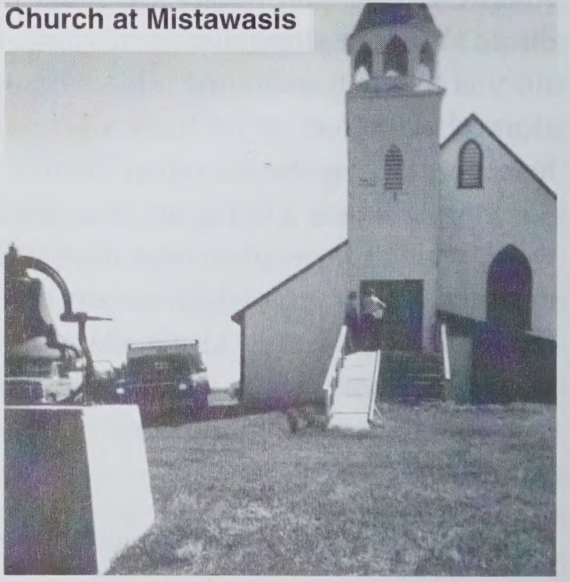
Melissa Golaiy from Terrace, British Columbia, received a grant from the Women's Missionary Society to do a student placement at a Vacation Bible School on the Mistawasis Reserve, Saskatchewan. Following are excerpts from her journal and photographs she took.

Day 1, Toronto May 25, 2001

I am very nervous and have no idea what to expect. As I sit on the plane, butterflies start to form in my stomach.... Hours later I arrive in Toronto. My bag hasn't come out yet so I decide to find the person picking me up. I go out the doors and introduce myself. Her name is Anne.... We arrived at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, a most beautiful place, And I met Josie, Jessie, Kyle, Dave, and Colleen.

Day 2, Toronto May 26, 2001

We arrive at the PCC [Presbyterian Church in Canada]. We work on what we're going to do in Mistawasis and a guest speaker comes to talk about being a missionary. ...I'm beginning to feel a little more comfortable with going. We all work on our "areas" (mine being arts/crafts & music) until 5:00 p.m. After a pizza supper we return to the hotel. Everyone goes swimming. I simply go to bed.



Church at Mistawasis

Day 3, Toronto May 27, 2001

We go to the PCC again and make more plans. Everything seems to be ready. After lunch I am taken to the airport. I can never be fully prepared but I am now more ready than 3 days ago. I can only wait until August now. I know it will be fun.

The crew, left to right : Jesse, Sofie, Melissa, Kyle, Josie, Verna (lady from reserve who helped).

Day 1, Mont Nebo August 4/01

We're finally here! We are staying at Nebo Hall instead of the school. I am excited to meet with the children on Monday. Mistawasis appears to be just like any other prairie reserve; nothing like what my Ontario friends envisioned. Tomorrow we go to church and meet some of the "locals". I can only wait patiently to discover what lies ahead for us.

Day 2, Mont Nebo August 5/01

When we arrived at the church, I became suddenly overwhelmed with peace. There is a graveyard right beside it. This was very interesting since the graves were above the ground. These people have been gone for many years. I also visited Chief Mistawasis' grave. There was a pouch of tobacco.

We met Harvey, a native elder. I hope he shares some stories with us.

Day 3, Mistawasis August 6/01

Today was the first day of VBS. All in all, it went well. I am learning patience. The kids love to sing. Like most kids, the "learning" part deserves little attention. As long as they're kept busy, little tension arises. Two girls sang me a song which really cheered me up. I am anxious to hear more stories and continue growing with these children. Until tomorrow.

Day 4, Mistawasis August 7/01

We had over 30 kids!!! It was trying at times but I am continually learning patience. We did the parable of the father and 2 sons. I am learning to be "more open" and to "be myself". With kids I don't have to be self-conscious. This is a very self-esteem raising week. Our (God & me) relationship is becoming stronger. Some kids took me to the graveyard. I was shown Boogie and the 7 kids who died in a fire. Today I became aware of the suffering and hardships these kids endure. One girl said she was 13 in order to get lunch. She was actually 16. Another first talked of the sexual abuse she goes through daily. 90% of these kids are special needs. I am very grateful now for my secure life. My heart aches tonight and I can only imagine what I will learn in the coming days.

Day 5, Mistawasis August 8/01

Today was amazing. 52 kids arrive. It was beyond hectic. I went with Dave to pick up the kids. One house had no front door. I feel sorry for these kids. I want to take them home. Singing is their favourite thing next to lunch. I am learning so much about dealing with large groups and the importance of patience. I don't want to leave because I feel we are keeping their daily troubles minimal. I want to go home, though, to leave behind all this suffering. (We finally got a real shower!)

Day 6, Mistawasis August 9/01

I was a lot more alive today after the shower. I was willing to play and simply have fun. Again my heart broke at the sight of the houses. Tonight we had Harvey, Wendy and Eva over for supper. A 13-year-old told me that she couldn't spell. I've had a very fun time. I know Mistawasis will always be a part of me.

Day 7, Mistawasis August 10/01

Well, it's all over now. We went to the lake for a BBQ. Everyone was so happy. I miss them already. I wish there was something I could do to make their lives better. I need to remember that God is watching over them.... All in all, I had an amazing week.

August 11, 2001

I'm on the bus right now. I'm glad to be going home but a piece of me is still with the kids in Mistawasis. I pray that God watches over them and that they find some happiness in life.

Overall Report

Melissa was an excellent leader for our Youth in Mission project. This past week has demonstrated her ability to lead, to give directions and to show great patience. She was always available for the children, for our teenage team and for myself as group leader. She was the patient disciplinarian.... Her development as a leader was tremendous. I valued Melissa's opinion and advice.

Dave Phillips

Anne and Dave Phillips were the VBS leaders. Anne is a Senior Administrator, Life and Mission Agency, The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Dave is the head of the Healthy Active Living Department at Anderson Collegiate & Vocational Institute in Whitby, Ontario. They attend St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church in Uxbridge, ON.

MISTAWASIS

Chief Mistawasis' grave

Stillness in Action

by Laura Cornett

As the snow falls outside, my mind goes back to a walk I took last spring. A robin stood in the middle of newly sprouted grass covered with hundreds of wild bluebells, grasping a fat earthworm in her beak. The blue and green feast in my mind contrasts with the yellow brown grass lying dormant outside under piles of dirty snow. Now, seven months later in front of my computer, there are no sounds around me. What a contrast to the sounds of the city I heard that day. Where was the stillness then?

In my journal I had written "Nature sings between the asphalt and the office building. Witnessing this blue and green symphony gave my soul wings to fly above the car horns, the squeaky brakes, the slamming doors and noisy people. I heard a bluebell growing and saw a flower singing." I experienced the sounds of stillness in the midst of noise.

So often movement, in a variety of forms, paralyzes any possible stillness in my life. What does it take to experience stillness? First, I stop the movement. I believe the stillness to be as important to my life as activity. I consciously breathe in God's love and presence to value the stillness. I listen for the sounds of stillness.

How can there be sounds in stillness? In the sounds of stillness comes the voice of God. To experience the spiritual dimension of life, equally as real as the tangible, we must train ourselves differently. To taste, we need to put things in our mouth. To hear, we need to listen to sound. To touch we must handle life.

To see, we must look at the world. To smell, we must breathe in fragrances. Can all these senses be experienced in the spiritual sense? How do I taste God? - hear God? - smell God? - feel God? How do I see God?

The most apparent channel to experience God through the senses comes through the means of His Word. As I listen and eat His words, I hear God talk to me, and I taste His goodness. When I listen to God I learn to be wiser. When I taste God, He fills the hungry pockets in my soul. When I smell God, those fragrances spray hope into my despairing mind, sprinkle the scent of peace on my anxious heart, and flood the rooms of my being with a mist of forgiveness. When I feel God, He is tender, gentle and empowering. His touch in my life is not abusive - its truth frees me.

Last spring I saw God growing a bluebell and feeding a robin. In that moment of stillness, God moved. Such action calls me to consistent stillness.

I heard a bluebell growing and saw a flower singing.

Flames Tour to Mozambique

by Jean Dancey

Four of us - John Congram, Editor of the Presbyterian Record, his son, Rob, a minister in Shakespeare, Ontario, Tracy Mackie, a nurse from Calgary, and myself, a WMS member from Oshawa, were participants.

We were well briefed by Sarah Hoag, hired by International Ministries to organize these tours. Originally we were supposed to leave in September 2000, but because of various diffiiculties, the departure date was changed several times.

Finally we gathered at Pearson International Airport in Toronto on Monday, March 12, 2001 with our passports, bags, gifts for missionaries and children, and banners for congregations we were to visit.

Toronto to London - seven hours, then a six-hour wait when we relaxed in hotel rooms near Heathrow. Tuesday afternoon, we boarded the plane for Johannesburg - 15 hours passed comfortably under the care of stewardesses on British Airways - plenty of water to drink, time to rest and to walk around the aisles of the plane, or watch TV, read, or sleep.

Left to right: Rob Congram, Tracy Mackie, Mounted Police Officer, Jean Dancey, Sarah Hoag and John Congram.

A beautiful sunny day when we landed about 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning. Our plane to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, did not leave until 2:30 p.m. We wandered around the large relatively new airport, found coffee shops for breakfast and lunch. Mark Gordon, our host in Mozambique, arrived about 11:00 a.m. to escort us into Mozambique and assist with checking our bags for the final lap of our journey.

A short flight, then we saw green fields with light rain as we landed. Dave Parsons, a Wycliffe Bible translator and friend of Mark Gordon, met us with his Land Rover and drove us to the Tivoli Hotel which provided comfortable lodging until Monday morning.

Mozambique was involved in Civil War from the mid-70s until 1994. During this time the land was mined heavily. People were persecuted, driven from their homes which were destroyed, their belongings and crops ruined. Many fled to neighbouring countries for safety. The projects Mark was supervising enabled the people to reclaim their lives - building communities with a safe water supply, with churches and schools with trained teachers to educate the children so that

SIGA-ME
AUTONOMIA

Banners were joyfully received from congregations in Canada.

they could earn a decent livelihood, and sometimes a few sparsely equipped health centres.

In February 1999 severe flooding ruined much of the new building. Mark supervised the distribution of relief supplies to families - mainly tools and seeds so that they could resume farming and have enough to eat daily when the waters subsided. Only hand tools are used as the people are too poor to buy gas for tractors or other machinery.

We were inspired with the strong Christian faith which kept hope alive under extreme circumstances because the people realize that God is always with them and they live under His love and guidance.

We met with the Synod staff. The Supervisor for Projects within the Presbyterian Church in Mozambique accommpanied us on some daily trips to visit the projects. These varied from safe drinking water to homes, schools to small farms with hens or goats to churches and health centres.

Each day began with Bible study, often about 7:00 a.m. in the church or the hotel before breakfast. We signed guest books as members of the Flames Tour from Canada in the Synod Office and at the schools.

At each stop the children sang or danced to welcome us. They sang in English once. The common language in Mozambique is Portuguese. Mark taught us a few necessary phrases. Smiles and friendly greetings are most important.

Banners made by Canadian congregations were presented to the Synod and to the congregation where Mark worshipped. Gary Coleman, from the choir in Knox, Oshawa, painted the one which I presented to the minister in Kovo Presbyterian Church in Maputo one evening.

The roads are paved in the cities but were often broken because of heavy rains. Smaller roads were often muddy and only passable for those driving Land Rovers or other four-wheel-drive vehicles. We were stuck briefly at times but Mark or Dave was able to get us out.

Sunday morning we attended worship at Ricatla Theological College. On the small road leading up hill to the college we noticed several women standing at the road side. When we came near we saw a man lying on the ground at their feet. He was severely wounded - twisted leg, bleeding badly. Mark stopped and spoke to the ladies. The man had been struck by a motorist at night and had been lying for several hours at the side of the road. His mangled motorcycle was lying beside him. Mark and Tracy decided that he had to be taken to hospital in Maputo. The man was lifted into the back of Mark's truck. Tracy hopped up beside him to try to ease his discomfort.

Dave drove John, Rob and me to the church. Dave explained Mark's absence to the Principal of the College and we were ushered to the front of the sanctuary as the service began. Students were leading worship. It was a special Sunday for newlyweds. They had spent the night at the church in prayer and meditation. The Principal sat behind us and translated as the service progressed. It was conducted in the native tongue. The hymns were familiar so we could follow them in the book. Hymns began with one person leading with the note and the others joining in after a bar or so. Youth, Men, and Ladies Choirs each sang anthems. At the conclusion we were invited to greet the congregation outside - shaking hands with many - babies to elderly. I had not realized how many were in the small church but it was crowded, probably 200 people.

After a tour of the grounds we left for an afternoon at the beach. A lovely sandy beach on the Indian Ocean. The water was warm. Tracy and Rob went swimming and found a strong undertow so they did not stay in long.

Mark was flying a new kite. Children gathered around. He showed them how to manipulate it. We spent a pleasant afternoon. Lightning and thunder made Dave hurry us to his Land Rover to drive away on the narrow, muddy, treacherous roads to the main highway. As we reached the pavement rain began to pour heavily.

Monday morning we flew to Tete in the north. Pastor Zulu met us at the airport and drove us to our hotel. After unpacking we drove to his old church where the land had been flooded by the Zambezi River in 1999. The building is badly in need of repair. The Synod is building a new church - "Cathedral of Tete" - all without machinery. It will be a very large complex, three floors filling a city block, perhaps ready for worship by Christmas 2001. We visited the pastor's home for a delicious goat stew dinner served by his wife. She did not eat with us.

We could never drink water from taps in hotels or in homes. Because of the hot humid climate we were offered a choice of Fanta, Coke or 7-Up for refreshment. For meals we often had tea for which the water was boiled, therefore safe to drink.

In Tete we visited the site of a new education centre to train adults for trades. Then we looked for gas before driving to Blantyre. No gas was to be found in Tete that morning. Long lines of cars waiting for gas were near every gas station we passed. After leaving the city we were able to fill up the gas tank in a small village.

After passing through customs at the border between Mozambique and Malawi, we met Linda and Glenn Inglis who were our hosts in Blantyre Synod for three days in southern Malawi.

Love Works Miracles

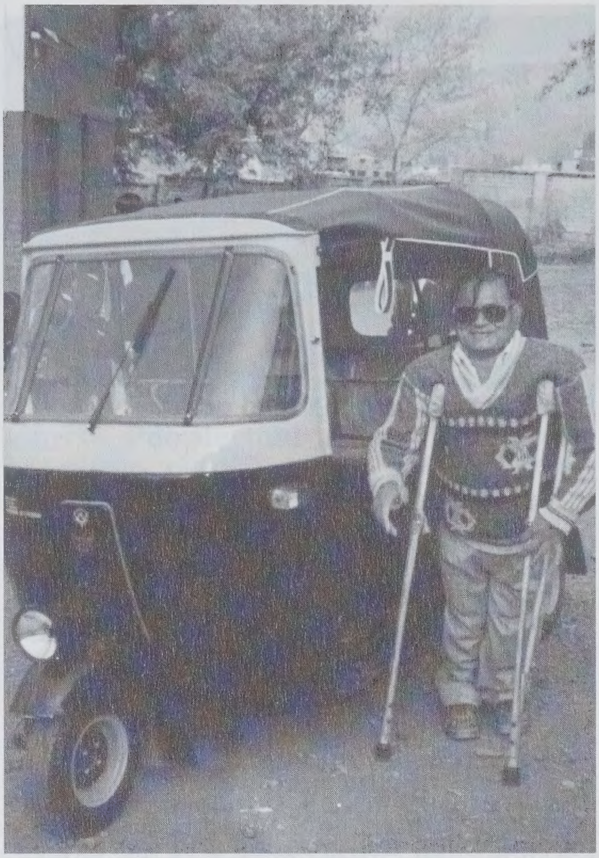
by Margaret Vanderzweerde

Today is very special. It is a day of celebration that we have long worked towards. Today we are celebrating Benji Hoyt's birthday and hundreds of people have come to share in his happiness. But I must begin this story at its beginning, at least as early as I can.

Benji Hoyt is a married teacher at the Helen MacDonald Memorial school in Jhansi. His wife is also a teacher and his two children are students there. A very nice couple, nice kids, like many other families, and yet there is something very different about Benji. He is a polio victim and is severely handicapped. He can get around a little, using two crutches, but can't get far. For distance transportation Benji needs a wheelchair and the old one is getting very old, needs lots of repairs and functions badly. Not much can be done anymore to repair it.

In India a teacher at a Christian School does not make much money and between Benji and his wife they can barely make ends meet, let alone think about new crutches or wheelchair.

My husband Jake got to know Benji quite well and he felt that something could be done for Benji if only people would get to know about the situation. The extenuating circumstances being that for Benji to come to school he has to travel on a road that is always full of pot holes, usually flooded most of the monsoon time, and when it rains anyone moving at snail's pace would be soaked before getting anywhere.



Benji Hoyt stands proudly in front of new wheels.

Jake felt that a motorized rickshaw would be great for Benji and his family. Not only would he be able to drive it without problems, he would be dry inside and there would be room for his wife and the children as well. The cost of gasoline would not be prohibitive and it would be encouragement to Benji.

Jake addressed his home congregation of Stamford Presbyterian Church in Niagara Falls and challenged people to make donations. It did not take long to raise the necessary funds and a pastor friend in Jhansi agreed to get the ball rolling for the purchase. When we arrived

Benji, with family, ready to go!

in Jhansi early in February of 2001 everything was almost in place.

For this special day, celebrating Benji's birthday, the staff at the school had arranged for the presentation to take place outdoors, on the newly built stage, so that many people could attend. All the teachers, over a thousand students, and many parents filled the grounds and the dedication, presentation and speeches took place on the day traditionally noted as Valentine's Day, the day we celebrate "LOVE".

Benji, humbly proud, took possession of his new "wheels" after making an emotional speech, expressing his gratitude to the people of Stamford Church, but acknowledging God's wonderful grace in bringing this about this miracle in his life. To be recognized as "worthy", and to be respected, especially by "foreigners" was an honour he would never have expected. He may not "walk" a little taller, but certainly rides in finer style than he ever could have imagined, praising and thanking God. On the back of his rickshaw are several "bumper stickers". One reads "Jesus is Lord" and the other "I love Jesus." Benji believes that in all things we must acknowledge Him and this is his way of doing just that.

Our Prayer

Please give us a guardian angel
To keep us through the night,
And guide us from the darkness
Into the morning light.

As you guarded the tomb of our Saviour,
Watch over us in our home,
And have an angel near us
Wherever we may roam.

We need help with the daily turmoil;
For though we persevere,
We cannot do it all alone,
That much is very clear.

You led the way to the manger
By the light of a single star;
The shepherds and the wise men,
Guiding them from afar.

Please lead us as a master,
And also as a friend,
After the storm is over,
To the rainbow at its end.

Frances Woodson

A Tribute to Diana Wadsworth

by Margaret Vanderzweerde

It is early March 2001, and it is cold in Jhansi. Jake and I have settled in at the apartment that was designated here at the schools to be for PCC personnel. It has been a comfortable place and we have spent many happy hours, sometimes in solitude (by choice), and at times with teachers and other friends.

Everybody knows that we are here, in this apartment at least, for the last time, and are flocking to the doors to see us and spend some time. Invitations are plentiful. Jake and I are cleaning it up, disposing of some of the things that were left by former missionaries, and preparing to turn things over to the management of the Helen Macdonald Memorial/ Margaret Leask Memorial Schools. There is sadness in the air. Saying "goodbye" is never easy, yet our sadness is generously sprinkled with laughter and joy as old memories and good times are shared through stories at almost every meeting.

Last night it got a little serious to the point of maudlin, but that was understandable, considering the Christian Indian's spirituality, commitment and loyalties. The evening became a tribute to Diana Wadsworth.

The more I listened, with both my head and my heart, I began to be awestruck at the number of people Diana has touched, for and in, the love of Christ. People that are still there and then consider the number of people who have left this place. Her love and dedication influenced teachers and students alike, and their feelings for her run deep.

Going through some "stuff" with some of the teachers we came across a copy of a tribute to her, which was presented to both Diana and International Ministries. The originals are printed on cloth, suitable for framing. The Tribute, as I copied it from the records, follows.

Diana left Jhansi five years ago this fall. The pain that is still felt by many at her absence speaks louder than any words uttered. I, myself, rejoice at the opportunity she was given by the Lord to be His instrument of love, reaching so many children who had left their homes and villages to come to the school in Jhansi. Her influence was not restricted within the boundary walls of the school.

A well-educated and successful Hindu man once said of Diana: "She is a holy lady." Dr. Deborah Tezlo of Jobat and several of her sisters attended HMM School. She told me that if it hadn't been for the school being there, and the Christian witness of the teachers, they doubt that they'd ever have become what they are today, a Christian doctor, nurse and teachers, all born tribals, and currently leaders among leaders in the church.

The opportunity they were given is still available to girls from poor, rural families. Through the "Ministry to Children" desk of our partner CNI we are still actively involved in providing good Christian education and an opportunity to encounter a living and loving Jesus Christ. Currently we are sponsoring about 20 girls. They have all come to have their pictures taken and I will get letters and profiles. Each of them asked that I convey their love and thanks to the people who so generously help them.

The gift of education is the most important we can give, in Christ's name. Knowledge empowers and through education they are empowered to take the life God has given them and make the best of it.

A Tribute to Diana Wadsworth

Our dear Miss Wadsworth:
It is with a sense of mixed feelings that
we bid you farewell!
Sad, because we will miss you; We will miss
your love and kindness as a ***mother*** for over three decades,
a ***friend*** who cared and persevered,
an able ***administrator*** embodied with discipline and efficiency,
who gave herself for the ministry more than any man could ever give.
The success of the schools reflect their own story of your
Commitment, motivation and hard work!!
We will miss you!
We rejoice, because in you we will have a ***prayer warrior;***
praying for us in readiness against the moments of our need.
We are what we are, but suddenly we will not be;
because you have affected us profoundly.
It is our prayer that God may stretch you towards joy,
and fill your dark corners with peace.
We wish you a very happy, contended and
Christ centered retirement.
Affectionately yours:
The Staff and Students of
HMM AND MLM Schools.

Below: Margaret Vanderzweerde with students at Jhansi.

BIBLE QUIZ: Birds, Insects and Animals

by

Doris M. Johnston

Can you match these birds, animals and insects with the answers in the first column? These are all in the King James Version of the Bible. You will find other names in other versions. **(Answers to Bible Quiz on page 47.)**

1. ________will drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite.
2. The fir trees are her house:________.
3. The high hills are their refuge:_____ ______.
4. They have no king yet: _______.
5. David slew a lion and a ________.
6. The ____ takes hold with her hands, and is found in kings' palaces.
7 .These were a part of Solomons' provision: _______.
8. ______will lie down in a desolate and lonely place.
9. _____ _____were included in a trespass offering.
10. The king's navy brought ________.

A- stork
B-golden mice
C- bear
D- wild goats
E- hornets
F- roebucks
G- peacocks
H- locusts
I- bittern
J- spider

We can make a difference!

photo: Paul Jeffrey, ACT

She is one of the two million refugees waiting in Pakistan to go home when the violence in Afghanistan finally ends. She is one of the refugees supported by your donations to PWS&D. PWS&D, through Action by Churches Together, is helping provide food, water, tents, blankets, and other supplies to Afghan refugees and internally displaced families inside Afghanistan.

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Program

Margaret Robertson
Program Secretary

Planning for Local Group, Presbyterial or Synodical Meeting or Event

by Lynda Reid and Margaret Robertson

Checklist for Planning

From the WMS By-Laws:

Each ***local group*** *shall meet regularly during the year for the purpose of becoming informed about the total mission of the whole church. There shall be a service of worship at each meeting.*

Synodical *shall in every way endeavour to further the Society's work within its bounds and to carry out the decisions of Council. (IV-1)*

Presbyterial *shall endeavour in every way to further the society's work and to promote the organization of new branches within its bounds. (III-1)*

The society's work is defined by its purpose:

The Women's Missionary Society is a community of Christians whose purpose,
in response to the love of God in Jesus Christ,
is to encourage one another and all the people of the church
to be involved in local and world mission
through prayer, study, service and fellowship.

Items to Consider:

1. What is the purpose of your meeting or event in the local group/presbyterial/synodical?

2. What part of the purpose do you want to accomplish? How will you accomplish this?

3. How much emphasis is placed on the various parts of the purpose? Are there areas that need more attention? If the answer is yes, how will you accomplish this?

4. Who is the meeting/event for? What would attract a newcomer to this meeting? Or

what would 'turn off'/'turn on' a newcomer to your meeting? (There may be obstacles that we don't notice such as dress, style, music or language. Think of ways you can avoid or remove the obstacles.)
5. Should you connect or work with a mission committee at your level?

6. Who should be involved in the leadership of this meeting/event? Remember, when you involve more people, you create higher interest and understanding. You also provide opportunities for leadership education.

7. How much business needs to happen at this meeting/event? Can some of the business be discussed ahead of time and brought forward as a recommendation?

8. Evaluate your format/agenda. Is it the 'same old' pattern? What is the appropriate pattern/plan/flow for this event?

9. What is the best meeting space arrangement?

10. How will people evaluate the climate? Think not only of room temperature, but also of the mood of the meeting/event. Will attendees leave wanting to gather again or will they be frustrated by too much business discussion, sitting too long, too much moving around…?

11. Timing - how much time do you need for receiving/learning information and how much time is allowed for processing that information?

Doing the Business at Meetings

1. What is *urgent* business of the society? How much of the business can be researched before the meeting? For example, how many details can be worked out or thought out before information is presented?
Is there a system or pattern for receiving business and/or urgent matters ahead of time?

2. What is the most efficient and pastoral way to do the business?

3. Are there standard recommendations that could be done in one motion i.e. accepting financial report, election of treasurer, appointing auditors?

4. Are there motions that can be 'agreed' upon rather than the formal moving, seconding and voting? The exception concerns finances and election of officers.

Election of Officers: Note that there is a standard procedure for the election of officers.

- The retiring President, before leaving the chair, asks the meeting to name a convenor to conduct the election of officers for the ensuing year.
- The convenor requests a secretary to be named to minute the election of officers.
- The convenor then calls for the report of the Nominating Committee. The convenor of the Nominating Committee presents the report and moves its reception. If and when the report is received by the meeting, the convenor of the election of officers asks if there are further nominations.
- Nominations may be made from the floor of the annual meeting providing the consent of the nominee has been secured.
- If there are no further nominations, the convenor declares nominations closed and asks for a motion that those persons whose names have been placed in nomination be the officers for the coming year. - When this motion is passed by the meeting, the convenor declares the officers elected.

If there is more than one nominee for any of the offices, it is wise to have a vote by ballot on those offices. The motion in such a case would be that all other officers as nominated be elected and a vote by ballot be taken for the office or offices for which more than one person have been nominated.

It is very helpful to pass on job descriptions to the newly elected officers. It is even more helpful to schedule time at a meeting when previous officers and new officers can go over their job descriptions, share information and ask questions.

Choices and Challenges

Keynote Speaker

Maureen Kelly

Women's Congress

TRAVELLING THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

The Congress will be held
Saturday, March 2, 2002

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Toronto Korean Presbyterian Church
67 Scarsdale Road
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Everyone Welcome

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Includes lunch, coffee-breaks and child-care

For more information:
Call Katherine Allen
(416) 425-4847 or (416) 441-1111 ext 326
kallen@presbyterian.ca

There will be eight workshops to choose from that are designed to raise Christian awareness of issues of concern to women.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MINUTE FOR JUSTICE

Children in Armed Conflict

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Corinthians 5: 17-18

Among those most affected in times of uncertainty are children caught up in armed conflict. The statistics are horrifying. In the last decade:

2 million children were killed
20 million children were made homeless
6 million children were left seriously injured or permanently disabled
Over 1 million children were orphaned
Over 10 million children suffered grave psychological trauma

An estimated 300.000 child soldiers, some as young as 7 years of age, engaged in armed conflict.

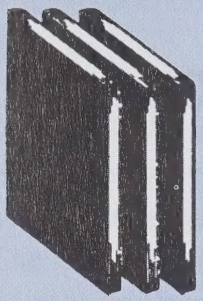
The international community has come to realise that children in armed conflicts need to be protected. They should never be recruited as child-soldiers. The United Nations has declared the next 10 years, ending in 2010, The International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World. What would life be for children in a culture of peace? In a culture of peace:

- Children would be free from torture and abuse and be able to play and laugh in a safe environment
- Children would be raised in nurturing homes
- Children would go to bed with full stomachs
- Children would be peacemakers who know the tools and skills of mediation as a first response to conflict.

Pray that we may find creative ways to make this dream come to pass.

This **Minute for Justice** is based on *Seeking Shalom in Times of Transition* the report of the International Affairs Committee to the 127th General Assembly, June 2001. The full report is found in Acts & Proceedings 2001.

Minute for Justice may be read as a Minute for Mission, or printed as a bulletin insert or newsletter article to inform members of the international concerns of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and ask for their prayerful consideration of these matters. The text was written by Dineke Kraay, member of the International Affairs Committee as representative of the Women's Missionary Society.



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Family Documents, What They Are, Where They Are by Walter and Esther Dueck. Waterside House Publishing. Hard cover G8357 $24.95, Soft cover G8356 $9.95

Do you ever put something important in a "safe place," so safe even you cannot remember where it is? This practical book will help keep track of all the administrative details of running a household: insurance, income and property details, personal I.D. numbers, automatic debits from bank accounts, debts or loans, record of investments, list contents of your safety deposit box.

It provides space to enter personal information including the names of your parents, your place of birth, your childrens' names, location of birth certificate, contacts such as executor of your will, lawyers and financial consultants, and someone to whom you may have given power of attorney.

Not only will this small book save you a lot of bother if you lose a credit card, but it may prevent some burden for your spouse or family in the event of your death. The leather-bound edition makes a particularly nice gift for parents to children or children to parents.

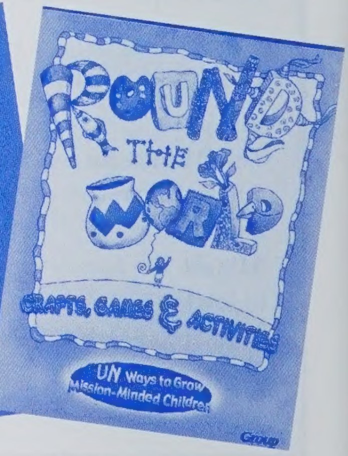
Reviewed by Susan Clarke

No Logo, Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies by Naomi Klein. Vintage Canada. G8383 $23.50

The term "No Logo" is not meant to be read literally as in "no more logos," but is an attempt to capture an anticorporate attitude. The purpose is to articulate the full agenda of a global movement and to track the early stages of resistance with the belief that, as more people discover the brand-name secrets, their outrage will fuel the opposition.

The cultural, economic and social conditions are examined that set the stage for this backlash. Based not on predictions but on research and first-hand experiences, Klein exposes where corporations are more powerful than government and only answerable to the shareholder; where

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER
NO LOGO
TAKING AIM AT THE BRAND BULLIES NA


ROUND THE WORLD
CRAFTS, GAMES & ACTIVITIES
FUN Ways to Grow Mission-Minded Children
Group

in the science of marketing, nothing is left to chance, but to no choice. She reveals how the global village is where some multinationals, far from leveling the world's playing field with jobs and technology for all, are in the process of mining the poorest back country for unimaginable profits.

Contains a huge amount of information, but very well written and comprehensive. Reviewed by Susan Clarke

One Small Sparrow by Jeff Leeland. Multnomah Publishing. G7792 $15.25
This is a powerful story of a little boy's fight for life against cancer. His father takes us on the boy's journey as he touches many lives and teaches life lessons of compassion, how to face truth and allow himself his honest feelings.

Interviews at the beginning of each chapter with those who are involved with the child, reveal how each is affected and how each has gifts and strengths to offer. The result of an entire community becoming involved with the family and their battle is the basis for forming the Sparrow Foundation. It reminds us that God is with us through thick and thin. Reviewed by Pauline Lindsay

Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers. Multnomaph Publishers. G8343 $23.95
What does unconditional love mean to you?

It's the 1850s. The gold rush in California explodes, bringing with it greed, hatred and lust. Angel, sold into prostitution at eight years old and understanding nothing else but the betrayal of men, comes to discover a powerful force of redeeming love.

Meet a man of great faith named Michael Hosea who marries Angel and starts to unravel her tormented past. Despite Angel's flight back to her dark past, Michael obeys God's call and rescues her, saving Angel from the prison she believes she belongs in.

In this compelling novel, based on the book of Hosea, we discover a timeless biblical theme of surrendering to God and battling to forgive. This is not your typical romance. Be prepared to be shocked, maybe even disturbed, as you become caught up in the lives of these unforgettable characters. Reviewed by Laurie Elsden

Round the World, Fun Ways to Grow Mission-Minded Children by Jane Choun. Group Publishers G8261 $28.75
A great way to present different cultures to elementary-age Sunday school children and develop a life-long heart for reaching out to the world, this resource is packed full of ideas and information. Begins with meeting a child from each country and uses discussion questions to discover the similarities and differences in their lives .

Each chapter includes two each of games, crafts, food, special celebrations, a section called "Let's See God's Work in [the country]," and concludes with additional information to be shared when doing the activities with the children.

IN MEMORIAM

Jeanne Elizabeth Leitch
A long time member of the Calvin family, Jeanne Elizabeth Leitch died on Friday, October 19, 2001. Elizabeth had been a member of Calvin, Toronto since 1932.

Elizabeth Leitch

Elizabeth, as she was called, moved to Toronto from Calgary as a young girl. In 1936 she graduated from the University of Toronto with two degrees in economics.

She was an Elder, served on many committees, and was on the Board of Trustees of Calvin for many years.

Elizabeth held many important and influential positions in her lifetime. She held the post of Chief Economist for the Imperial Bank of Commence in the late 60s and early 70s, the first female to do so. She was also appointed to the Ontario Economic Council in 1970, only the second woman to receive such an appointment.

Elizabeth worked on two royal commissions in the 1950s - the Fowler Commission on broadcasting and the Bladen Commission on the automotive industry in 1960-61. This report led to the prestigious and very significant Canadian/U.S. Auto Pact. For many years, Elizabeth was on the Board of the Royal Ontario Museum, and was a member of various social clubs in Toronto.

Elizabeth was the financial investment advisor for the Women's Missionary Society from 1976 to 1991, and a member of the Trustee Board of the Presbyterian Church. Both groups were most thankful for her insight and wisdom.We will miss the elegance and expertise that Elizabeth demonstrated through the years.

Forward in Faith

Over the years, the Council Executive of the WMS has endeavoured to be good stewards of the funds donated by its members and the legacies it receives. As a result, mission outreach in a variety of forms and in many places has been undertaken.

Funds have been set up to assist theological students in their training, to support mission outreach in Canada and abroad, to assist children to attend camps, to send young people to Christian conferences, to educate young members of our partner churches overseas for service within their Church, and to help support leadership training events at the Presbyterial and Synodical levels.

Earlier this year a new fund was approved from undesignated legacies, in the amount of $50,000. This will assist mission projects undertaken by WMS groups within their communities. The guidelines for the Fund, which initially will operate for a period of three years, are presently being formulated. If the Mission outreach projects undertaken with the assistance of the Fund prove rewarding, it will continue to assist local mission projects.

Further information will be available when approval has been given to the guidelines for the Fund. We go *forward in faith* that our groups across the Church will come up with some innovative outreach projects in their communities.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

P.S. Receipts to the end of September 2001 amounted to $389,335 which is just over half of the Presbyterial receipts for 2000.

MISSION IN ACTION

Note: Prayer concerns are highlighted in bold and italics.

Randall
Taiwan

Thanksgiving 2001 - I was home for holidays this summer. I had not been home in the summer for nearly 10 years. It was Cobourg High School's 100th anniversary and school reunion; Cobourg's Waterfront and July 1st celebrations; and my oldest nephew's graduation. It was also a very good friend's 40th wedding anniversary; my brother and his wife's 30th anniversary, several birthdays, etc. Many reasons for me wanting to share in these special times! I also visited other friends in Florida on my way back to Taiwan.

As I was leaving for Canada, Dr. Wilkerson, a previous PCUSA missionary doctor and our hospital vice-superintendent for 28 years died in Montreat, North Caroline, USA. The funeral [which I was able to attend] was a great witness to his life and service. Many previous missionary friends were there and our hospital sent six representatives. His witness continues here as doctors remember to pray before surgery and to learn from his charting and medical records.

Our major concerns in Taiwan have been the two typhoons in the last month. Toraji hit the east coast and Nan Tou areas in August. On August 11th our sister aboriginal church with my church, Eng Hok, was to dedicate the new church but with roads out they still have not been able to have this. We are thankful their church and village were not damaged greatly.

In September another typhoon, Nari, hit Taipei and the north part of the island with a vengeance. It has taken more than a week to get the water pumped out of basements, the mass transit system trains running again, as Taipei Train station flooded as well; the mud and garbage out of the homes that were flooded, particularly in areas in greater Taipei; over 4,000 cars were damaged; over 80 lives lost; many were injured and some are still missing.

We were fortunate in our area, although at Erhlin the riverbank was about to overflow twice. ***Pray for all these disasters and problems in Taiwan and the rest of the world.***

Changhua Christian Hospital continues to grow and survive under the many changes in the medical and insurance system. We still see 7-8,000 people a day in Out Patients and the occupancy rate is high. There are often no beds when needed. ***Pray we can continue to serve the people in central Taiwan through our medical healing ministry.***

Erhlin continues to be busy as well, and there are over 1,500 most days in our Out Patients. Emergency is busy. Our concern is for older people and their illnesses. We also have many older patients who continue on respirators for a long time because of long term lung problems. We also have several beds for Nursing Home Patients. ***Pray as we train more people to be special caregivers for these kinds of patients.***

Our nursing turnover is much less in both hospitals this year. It is a difficult time for new grads as there are not many jobs in any of the hospitals.

Pray for all our new staff that they may be committed and dedicated to the mission of our hospital and our nursing care.

We are thankful to have Louise Gamble back at HsinChu Bible College and the Geddes in Taipei as we continue to represent you as Canadian missionaries here in Taiwan.

Thanks for all your support, love and prayers

In Love,

Joy

Overseas Staff Birthdays

MARCH

12 - Ling Schwarz, Nepal
15 - Brenda Patterson, El Salvador
19 - Naomi Inglis, Malawi

APRIL

1 - Joel Lessard-Clouston, Japan
11 - Sean David Allison, Cameroon
15 - Sherien Barsoum, Cyyprus (Canada)
17 - Peter Daniel Pandy-Szekeres, Hungary
18 - Marlene Peck, Malawi
22 - Linda Inglis, Malawi

Lessard-Clouston
Japan

August 1, 2001 - Greetings once again from Nishinomiya! It has been almost a year since we last wrote, and we apologize for not updating you sooner. Thank you for praying anyway! We'd like to share how your prayers have been answered, and give you some specific suggestions as you continue to pray for us in the future.

We wish that we could report that the various problems at the university, which we mentioned last time, have been resolved, but that is not the case. The alleged misconduct by "foreign English teachers" was never dealt with appropriately, and some challenges in our missionary community remain. Thus ***please keep praying for healing and justice.***

Michael - Although I teach as much as before, this past year has seen several changes in my work. I continue with the undergraduate English classes I taught previously (conversation, composition, and listening), but teach fewer sections. Instead, since April I have also been teaching in a new graduate program in language, communication, and culture.

For this I now teach one core course open to all students and another directed towards language education majors, and I am involved in supervising some students' Master's research projects. Though the motivation and quality of these students is high, their levels of interest vary, as with my undergraduates, whose English and academic levels have been decreasing in recent years. I need patience and creativity to address the various challenges that accompany these realities. One problem is that teaching at both levels greatly increases the amount of time I need to devote to meetings and administration, which makes it more difficult to find time for research and writing. As my own dissertation is still a work-in-progress, ***please pray for***

me to have the time, focus and energy to finish it.

At the School of Economics, our weekly English chapels maintain good attendance and overall feedback from students is positive. ***Please continue to pray that God will use these and other opportunities on campus to bless students and others, so that they might come to know and serve Him.***

Wendy - My Ladies' Bible Study continues to be a thought-provoking but enjoyable group. Since April, two members have left but two new people have joined, so we still have nine women with very regular attendance.

In May we completed a book on the teachings of Jesus, and then we did some studies from the Epistles on major points of Christianity (e.g., salvation by faith, holy living, etc.) I am encouraged by the interest and willingness to ask hard questions amongst these women. I also have discussions via email with some of them in between meetings. ***Please pray for these women, that their diligent study of the Bible will not be just an academic exercise.***

Since September I have also been teaching a weekly English conversation class in our home. It seems to go well and I enjoy the variety it provides. Thankfully, Caleb has been very cooperative in allowing me to teach the class with minimal interruptions. When he does contribute to discussions, it provides excellent listening practice for the students! May God grant me wisdom, so that I may be an effective teacher and Christian witness.

Joel - Since April Joel has been in grade two, with a new class and teacher. Although there are one or two Asians, he is the only visible foreigner attending our local Japanese primary school. We are grateful that Joel has learned Japanese quite well and seems to keep up with his classmates. We are concerned, however, that he has developed a very negative attitude towards school this past term. Encouraging him to do his homework, for example, is particularly difficult.

Unlike most schools in Canada where there is ESL or other types of support for students with diverse backgrounds or needs, no such system exists here. In addition, schools in Japan face numerous social challenges, because bullying, classroom breakdown (i.e., chaos) and other problems are common. ***Please pray for Joel's physical protection, for an improved attitude towards learning, and that he might make a true friend and be able to relate well to his classmates and teachers.***

Joel takes weekly swimming and karate lessons, which he enjoys very much. Wendy also does some home schooling with him to develop his English (using Canadian materials). Joel's education and activities present specific challenges for Wendy, who deals with all the letters, interviews, and other communications in Japanese. We covet your prayers for wisdom in balancing Joel's learning at school and at home, while also enabling him to have time to be a child!

Caleb - Now 3½, Caleb has been attending an English preschool class one day a week since the spring. He loves to use his imagination, make train tracks or build things with duplo or lego, and imitate his brother. He even asks for "homework" to do at his 'desk'. Caleb is quite sociable and loves to play with other kids during Wendy's Ladies Bible Study or other times. Recently he's taken an interest in swimming, so both boys will take lessons for a week at the end of August.

As with Joel, we ask that you ***pray not only for Caleb's safety and protection, but also for his growth and development.*** May he make a good friend and continue to learn some Japanese (as well as English).

English Bible Study - Our English Bible Study meets twice a month, and this fall we will finish studying Luke. Unfortunately attendance has been quite sporadic, so that there's been little consistency between studies. As students have graduated the group has gotten smaller, though a few people from our Japanese church also attend. ***Please ask God to bring the right students or others to us this fall, as we invite newcomers to join the group. Please also pray for guidance as we select new materials to use after we finish the study guide this autumn.***

Church - We now attend an English service most weeks but continue to go to our neighbourhood Japanese church once a month. This has enabled Joel to attend Sunday School in English, and for us to become involved by serving in the nursery and Children's Church.

Please pray for Japan! - Over the coming months, please continue to pray for Japan and Japanese people. The economy continues to hobble along, and combined with the new Prime Minister's popularity there has been a resurgence in leftist ideology. Together with the xenophobia on our own campus, that we wrote about last time, we have concerns about efforts to divide people and gloss over sin. May God remove any blinders people have, so that they may see the light and truth of the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4-6), which can bring unity. May Christ's light shine in people's hearts and provide the knowledge Japan and Japanese people need to face the many current problems.

Please also pray for Christians here: may they live by faith, know forgiveness of their sins, and have a growing knowledge of God, so that they may share the good news about salvation and life through Jesus with others.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Yours sincerely,
Michael & Wendy

Van Wissen
Nicaragua

July/August 2001 - Greetings once again from Nicaragua! I've been back several weeks already after spending May and June in Canada. To the AMS women - it was a great pleasure to finally visit your part of the country, and to meet so many of you at your Presbytery meetings. I've come home to Nicaragua with happy memories of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and PEI, and of the great interest in our work shown by all of those I encountered in my deputation travels. [Denise was also able to visit WMS Council.]

I was fortunate to be able to spend a few summery June days with you at both Camp Keddie in Nova Scotia and Camp Keir in PEI. Other highlights included staying with Janice Carter and her family, and visiting many small country churches.

As usual, times are tough here in

Nicaragua. After initial heavy rains in May to kick off the planting season, the North-Central and North-Western regions of the country have had almost no precipitation at all.

Parts of Honduras and El Salvador, our neighbouring Central American countries, have also been hit very hard by this drought, but at least their governments have declared states of emergency, while Nicaragua's president has been echoing his blind denials of Hurricane Mitch's devastation: that things don't look too bad to him! The agricultural crises never seem as serious when viewed from the perspective of a bustling capital city like Managua.

At the same time, torrential rains on the Atlantic Coast of the country have caused terrible flooding resulting in widespread hunger and several deaths. This is yet another example, in this case of natural origin, of the great contradictions symptomatic of impoverished Central America.

I say 'natural origin', but in fact, though the weather can't be controlled, if the affected people of both the drought regions and the flooded areas weren't living in conditions of such crushing poverty to begin with, these climatic crises wouldn't cause as much human suffering as they always seem to do.

Denise Van Wissen

On a brighter note, our (SOYNICA's) work in Food & Nutritional Security is going well. Many of the families are really making progress! (We work with over 360 farming families who have very little, and very marginal, land). Many of their gardens are a joy to visit, since only a year or two ago, where there was nothing but hard-baked earth and some rugged weeds, the women now proudly show off their pineapples and papaya, yucca (cassava), peppers, onions, tomatoes and tall banana plants - just to name a few items!

As I write to you, it's been good to be able to picture your faces in mind, not just imagined! And now that I know your surroundings in Atlantic Canada, I hope to better paint a picture of our reality down here. With God's help we'll strengthen the partnership, AMS/WMS and the SOYNICA team and peasant-farmer families!

October 2001 - Now that all of September's festivities to celebrate national (and Central American) independence have passed by, we've suddenly found ourselves in the month before national elections slotted for the fourth of November. National issues are now being ignored while banners proclaim, ‘No to terrorism, yes to peace’. This is a jab from one of the two principal political parties who accuse the other of links to international terrorists.

October in Central America conjures up different images than those that would occur to ‘northerners’ like you in Canada. It’s the month not of the harvest, but of the heaviest rains (hopefully!) to guarantee the crops’ growth for a good harvest in November/December. Of all the months of the rainy season (May or June to November), tropical storms are most frequent in October. In fact, Hurricane Mitch three years ago was so devastating partly because it came on the heels of other storms whose downpours had already filled the rivers to capacity.

In my last letter I mentioned the severe drought we were having upon my return from Canada at the beginning of July, but now I can share more positive news: the second rains did come in early September so farmers were able to attempt a second crop of corn and beans with the hope that this crop, unlike the last one (planted in May or June to be harvested in August) will be a success.

It hasn’t rained as much as was ‘esperado’ (waited for/hoped for), so yields won’t be great, but even a scant harvest will be welcome. It’s refreshing and motivating to see bright green fields of bean plants covering the soil, and corn stalks beginning to sprout up, too.

This week we’ve enjoyed Brenda Patterson’s visit from El Salvador. Brenda came to see my work with SOYNICA to gain a better idea of what we’re doing here in northern Nicaragua, and took back ideas for the communities where she and Jim are involved with the Baptist Federation. We hope I’ll be able to return the visit to provide some technical assistance in nutrition and health.

Thank you always for your prayers, especially for political and economical stability, for the SOYNICA team, and for energy and good health for all the ‘campesino’ families we work with.

Paz, (peace)

Denise

Babarik
Guatemala

October 2001 - For some reason, I tend to find refuge in the smoggy streets of this big third world hub. A drive through Guatemala City is a very good way to forget the tensions of the office. I don’t know why but traffic anarchy relaxes me a little. Maybe because it seems so unreal. For example, it still impresses me that an archaic diesel-spewing bus would try to squeeze into anything, let alone a car length worth of moving traffic.

I think this is successful only thanks to the magic hand of the young conductor. He hangs out the front door of the bus, hollering the destination of the vehicle to those waiting by the side of the road for the right call. At the same time, the conductor is in charge of directing the driver through sticky situations. In order to clear the way for a lane change, he dangles a hand out of the bus.

Foreigners like me refer to this move as the magic hand. He casually waves it low, for the benefit of the cars with which the bus "shares" the road. Though the gesture is casual, its significance is blatant: a big ol' hunk of speeding colour is on its way into your lane. Allow it to happen or risk mutilation.

Other examples of the type of road-creatures that distract me are the various incarnations of Common-Place Wealth and the Typical Face of Poverty. The city is full of Common-Place Wealth, nestled behind the wheel of a Ford Explorer or Range Rover. It drives in and out of malls and walls. I think the walls shelter big houses and fancy offices, but I can't say for sure. I am basing my guess on the appearance of the protruding rooftops and the very specific type of vehicles for which the walls open up.

If you follow the anarchy-trail to one of the restaurants in the fancy Zone 10 part of town, you can also see Common-Place Wealth sucking back a cappuccino. The beans used for the beverage in such locations are likely imported, despite the fact that Guatemala produces some of the best coffee in the world. I guess it's the element of "conspicuous consumption" that is still alive and well here.

As for Typical Face of Poverty, it usually looks like a short, colourfully dressed woman, with two or so children in tow. I often see her standing by the side of the road, trying to rush across without losing a little one. I have learned, through other people's testimony, that her other five kids are probably over the age of seven, and hence are working somewhere.

The Typical Face of Poverty is often complimented by the Strong Back of Poverty, upon which rest a potato sack-sized bag full of something which she will bring to market to sell. It may also contain firewood with which she cooks since the presence of electrical wiring across the city doesn't necessarily mean that a poor person will have access to it.

Furthermore, since the Typical Face of Poverty might live in one of those boxes made of chunks of corrugated metal, if she had electricity for a while, she might lose it. Shanty settlements like hers clutch onto the side of the ravines with all their might, but with a good rainstorm or the rattle of an earthquake, her electrical wires get ripped away with the rest of her belongings.

Now, I'm not suggesting that I see Guatemala with these categories all the time. There is a fair bit in between Poverty and Wealth here. Still, I am fascinated by the fact that the face and back of poverty can co-exist with the wheels of wealth.

I should also mention that the challenge of understanding this bi-polar world is not without some comedy relief. For example, while travelling on the city expressway, it's kind of funny to look up and see a herd of goats on its way up and across a pedestrian overpass. Of course, the reason the shepherd is leading his animals around the world of cement is not as funny: he can't afford land. It's owned by the people behind the walls, with the Range Rovers.

The shepherd is therefore stuck either tending someone else's goats in the countryside, or teaching his followers how to find food in the city dumps and how to trim the grass in the few parks around. Despite that sad thought, when one first sees urban goats, it's funny. They clop up and down stairs, or follow a businessman on the sidewalk, as if he were their surrogate shepherd. It makes you wonder if you would rather be a goat, a businessman, a shepherd, or something in between, sitting in a car, gobbling up strange things with your eyes.

For all the grumbling I do in a day, I still feel lucky to be accumulating visions here in Guatemala. Maybe one day some of them will make sense.

Love,
Sylvie

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Rev. Dr. Ian Clark has been reappointed to our partner church, the Presbyterian Church of East Africa in Kenya. The PCEA have seconded him to teach Christian Education at Paul's United Theological College in Limuru, Kenya. Ian and his wife Catherine departed for Kenya in August. Catherine will continue her work with the University of Toronto. She expects that assignments from the university will facilitate her being in Kenya from time to time.

Report from Brian Neilson, Theological Intern, Malawi, November 2001

Brian Neilson is a student at Presbyterian College who spent a four-month internship in Blantyre Synod, Malawi. He was supervised by a Malawian pastor, Rev. C.C. Kamoto, who sent a very positive report on Brian's work in his parish.

Brian's four-page report on his internship is good reading and it is clear he feels that he was greatly blessed by his experience. The following is his conclusion:

"I end where I began and thank the Lord for having willed that this student internship take place. I would also like to acknowledge those gifts made to *Presbyterians Sharing...* that made this report such a joy to write. It is certainly a challenge to articulate the sense of renewed vigor and sense of call I have received in my life because of my time in Mangochi, Malawi.

Numerous seeds have been sown as a direct result of the partnership which exists between CCAP and the PCC. These seeds ought to be watered and generously tended. As we come to live more and more in a 'globalized' world we need also to work on our worldwide witness. This kind of witness necessitates a just reciprocity between those who send ambassadors and those who receive them in Christ's name.

There were innumerable events that I was graced to be a part of in Malawi that I could only experience because I was a Christian living with fellow Christians. I pray that one day we here in Canada will be able to be as generous and giving of the plenty of our lives as our fellow brothers and sisters are in Malawi generally, and Mangochi, particularly. If for no other reason than that "we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord".

Fascinating Facts from the Bible
Compiled by Eve Stlickland

Did you know...
In ancient times new-born babes were rubbed with salt in order to harden their skin, as this operation was supposed to make it dry, tight, and firm... The salt may also have been applied as an emblem of purity and incorruption.
Holy Bible, New Living Translation, Ezekiel 16:4

NEWS

Residential School Talks Collapse

OTTAWA (CCN) -by Art Babych. The year-long talks between the federal government and the churches that ran Indian residential schools under contract to Ottawa have all but collapsed in the wake of the government's offer to pay 70 per cent of the cost of abuse claims reached out of court with former students.

"We're back to square one," said Sr. Marie Zarowny, SSA, chair of the Catholic Organizations' Task Group on Indian Residential Schools. "We're definitely further away than we were year ago and I find it very exasperating," she said in a CCN interview Nov. 8.

The government's offer was made Oct. 29 following discussions on a cost-sharing arrangement between the churches and the government for paying validated claims of abuse by former students of the now-defunct schools.

The unilateral decision caught the churches by surprise. Both parties had proposals on the table when the government suddenly said, "We don't like your proposal," said Zarowny. "They said, 'We're going to go and offer 70 percent to the plaintiffs that are near settlement - which is less than 1,000 of the 9,000 or so that we have - and you can decide whether you want to pay 30 percent, or the plaintiffs can sue for the other 30 percent if that's what they choose to do.'"

Also involved in the talks with the government were the Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches.

The churches and Catholic organizations, under the name, The Ecumenical Group on Indian Residential Schools, said the government's offer to pay 70 per cent of settlements reached out of court with former students from the schools was a step in the right direction. But they added that a more comprehensive solution for dealing with abuse claims is needed.

Leaders Praise Nicaraguan Elections

Church leaders in Nicaragua said recent elections were surprsingly peaceful. The November 4, 2001 elections resulted in the defeat of former president Daniel Ortega, the Sandinista National Liberation Front candidate. Ortega conceded defeat to the Constitutional Liberal Party's Enrique Bolanos, a former vice-president.

Gustavo Parajon, a Baptist pastor in Managua and former president of the Nicaraguan Council of Evangelical Churches said the process was very democratic. "We seem to have finally institutionalized the idea that we can change governments in Nicaragua without having to resort to arms."

A Roman Catholic bishop, Paul Schmitz, gave Daniel Ortega credit. "He could have called the masses to protest [against his defeat], and they would have responded."

Ortega was a leader of the revolution that overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979. He was first president in 1984.

Pressure from the US government is thought to be a key factor in the last minute towards Bolanos. "Coming from a government that had waged a vicious war here, it was totally inappropriate", commented Jennifer DeLury, A United Methodist who works there with Witness for Peace.

In the Society

Presbyterial

The Fall Rally of **Montreal** Presbyterial was held on September 22, 2001 at Maplewood Church, Chateauguay, Quebec.

Presiding was President Genevieve Holding who started the day with a prayer. Betty Jordan welcomed us and gave a short history of the church. The host minister Rev. Lynne Donovan led the worship service. Her meditation was "Taking Inventory."

Lorna Connolly did the *In Memoriam* and spoke of the lives of Irene Noble, Lachute and Rita Wade, Margaret Innes, Mary Russell, and Kay Jupp of Montreal.

Genevieve Holding introduced speaker Rev. Dr. John Vissers, Principal of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, Quebec. He gave a very interesting talk on the "Education of the Laity". Lois Klempa thanked our speaker.

After lunch Betty Johnston and Edie Bobbitt led in singing.

An interesting program was led by Genevieve Holding, "The Work of our Hands". Courtesies were given by Grace Thornley-Brown. Grace is shown below at a meeting in May with Helen Campbell on right.

Peterborough and Lindsay Presbyterial held its Autumn Adventure at Elim Lodge, Pigeon Lake on Saturday, September 23rd, 2001. The theme *Living Lightly on God's Earth* was taken from Genesis 2:8-9, and Psalm 8.

The day began with a sing-along by Jackie Kelly and Beverly Thompson of Norwood. The opening worship was a responsive reading of Psalm 104 presented by Lindsay Presbyterial President Alyth Mutart, assisted by other members, as well as a scripture reading Genesis 2: 4-9.

We were welcomed by Presidents Alyth Mutart and Joan Smith.

Laurie Elsden from The Book Room at Wynford Drive gave a very informative review on books available.

The worship entitled "God's People, God's Planet: Living Lightly on God's Earth" was presented by Rev. Lynda Reid, Alyth Mutart and Joan Smith. Nancy Millar of Norwood led in a very exciting exercise program.

After lunch we enjoyed a film on "Population" followed by another gathering of song led by Jackie and Bev.

The meeting concluded with the offering and closing words from Psalm 8 led by Joan Smith and Cecilia Morris.

East Toronto Presbyterial met at Gateway Church September 17, 2001 for their Fall Study Workshop. We had a good turnout and were happy to welcome a number of visitors.

Margaret Near introduced Lynda Reid

who presented the study for the coming year "God's People, God's Planet: Living Lightly on God's Earth".

It is broken down into a number of parts: Humanity's role in creation; A world of water; The air we breathe; The land; All God's creatures; and Living lightly on the earth.

Lynda gave a number of ways this program could be presented and everyone thoroughly enjoyed her presentation.

PICKERING PRESBYTERIAL CELEBRATES

In January 1990 **Pickering** Presbyterial began with nineteen WMS and women's groups. From the outset, it was clear that the traditional Presbyterial formats were not going to work. Innovative ways were found for the executive structure.

Through the years Presbyterial had a Co-ordinator, then two Co-ordinators who shared the work. A WMS Representative was responsible for Synodical liaison and annual reports. Once, the Presbyterial was divided into two regions with one region as the Presbyterial executive. Telephone convenors and a regular newsletter kept the groups in touch.

As energies were channeled into the individual groups, it was increasingly difficult to get leadership for the Presbyterial. At the 2001 annual meeting it was agreed to close the Presbyterial. On October 27th the accomplishments of Pickering Presbyterial were celebrated in a service with the theme "You Must Remember This."

Lynda Reid recalled the beginnings of the Presbyterial using Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 emphasizing that "God sets the time." Jean Dancey, a former Co-ordinator, reviewed the different Presbyterial executive structures.

Left to right, back: Doris McAndless, Margaret Hannah, Lynda Reid, Anna Cooke. Front: Jean Dancey, Hilda Clarke, Noelle Thomson and Barbara Draffin, Pickering Presbyterial Closing Celebration.

Noelle Thomson told stories from Pickering Post and Hilda Clarke displayed the first copy of the newsletter. Treasurer, Barbara Draffin celebrated the financial gifts to WMS. Over the 11 years a total of $245,604 has been given not only to the WMS, but also to mission projects.

Through her gift of poetry, President Doris McAndless remembered speakers who inspired, people who strengthened leadership, led in singing and told the stories of mission. As she spoke people responded with "I remember."

Greetings from Synodical of Toronto & Kingston, Pickering Presbytery and the National WMS were read. After each recollection, those gathered either sang a hymn or were led in prayer. Using Isaiah 43, Joyce Davis, the Presbyterial's first President, reminded the people of God's continuing presence and that God was about to do a "new thing" with the people.

Karen Illman sang two very appropriate solo pieces.

Even though the circle of Pickering Presbyterial is broken we celebrate with joy and thanksgiving the faithfulness of the Presbyterial in the mission of the church.

Barrie Presbyterial Fall Rally was held at St. Andrew's, Barrie on September 29. Jean Crump welcomed visitors to the church.

Vice-president Evelyn Horne constituted and conducted the meeting. June Campbell, president of Toronto-Kingston Synodical, brought greetings and updated us on synodical events.

Reta Tanner and Evangelene Williams gave a touching tribute in memory of Myra McFarlane, presbyterial president who passed away on September 10. A beautiful floral arrangement on the communion table was placed in Myra's memory.

Devotions were based on the theme, *The Way, The Truth and The Life*. Lois Cullis read John 14: 1-6. A skit, presented by Susan Patton, Jill Pardy and Evelyn Horne gave us food for thought.

Charlotte Duke arranged prayer groups and led in prayers for missionaries.

Evelyn Horne and Marie Schandlen led a Bible Study on Luke 24: 36b-48. Activities based on this study were carried out by small groups. We learned much from each other as we composed poetry and songs, did interviews and prepared posters and charts.

Various reports were given and Marie Schandlen gave brief reviews of several interesting books from the book table.

June Campbell opened the afternoon session by leading a joyful sing-along. Harold Johnston, guest accompanist, also inspired us with a delightful medley of piano selections.

Hilda Briggs introduced special guest, Lezlie Allison. Lezlie and her husband, along with their young children, are serving as missionaries in Cameroon. Her mission is to translate the Bible for the people with whom they work.

Jean McNiven extended our appreciation to Lezlie and also to those who had contributed to the success of the day.

The afternoon concluded with a very meaningful communion service conducted by Rev. Dr. D. McKillican, assisted by WMS members.

Mission in Service was the theme for the Fall Rally of **Maitland** Presbyterial held at South Kinloss Church on September 24. Marjorie Deyell and Ruth Buchmeir welcomed us to the meeting. Women of Belgrave led in worship.

Following business the senior Sunday School girls, accompanied by Dale Gilchrist, shared special music.

We welcomed new area staff Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs of Dundas, ON.

Betty Mitchell introduced guest speaker Ellen Waldock, a nursing instructor at Mukinge Hospital in Zambia. She works with SIM, Serving in Mission, an interdenominational group working in 43 countries.

The meeting closed with words of thanks by Molesworth Afternoon Group and prayer by the Belmore Group.

This is the Day. Give Thanks and Be Glad was the theme of the **Sarnia** Presbyterial Fall Rally held at the Mooretown Church on October 16, 2001.

Travellers to two Third World Countries, Nicaragua and Ecuador, shared their thoughts and pictures with the members. Guest speaker, Rev. James Sloan, assisted by his wife, showed beautiful slides of areas that tourists visit and also scenes where the people of those countries live. What a contrast!

Marion Perrie thanked Mr. Sloan for sharing information about countries that he had visited.

An *In Memoriam* Service was conducted by the president in memory of Catherine Watson who was a dedicated and faithful teacher worker in the church.

A plaque and picture, to be placed in the Watford church, were presented to Margaret McNeil and members of her group.

We adjourned to the sanctuary of the church. Anna Jean McCoskery, the president, welcomed everyone with a poem and a prayer of thanksgiving.

Closing devotions were conducted by Betty Watson and the meditation "A Loaf of Bread" was given by Joyce Trapp. She explained that the bread had been produced in co-operation with the environment and willing hands. We should be thankful not only for bread but for all the blessings and gifts which God has given us.

Also taking part were Isabel Nisbet, Annie Booms, Anne Nisbet, Shirley Duchane, Shirley Mercer and Catherine McKenna.

Rev. James Sloan closed with prayer.

Kingston Presbyterial Fall Rally was held in St. Andrew's, Stirling, Ontario on September 11. The theme for the day was *Creative Programming.*

Greetings were given by Dorothy Scholten, Stirling's PCW President.

St. Andrew's, Trenton led the opening worship service with Alice Clemens, Christine Self and Evelyn Snelling participating. Guest speaker for the day was the Rev. Margaret Robertson, WMS Program Secretary. In the morning session she spoke on the current study book.

A mission report was given by Dorothy Hickey on her trips to Nicaragua and Cuba.

The afternoon session opened with a sing-along with Lois Bennett and Bev Adams at the piano. At this time Margaret Robertson spoke on the theme. Barbara Best from Sandhill, Joyceville voiced everyone's appreciation to our guest speaker and to the host church.

The closing worship was led by St. Andrew's, Belleville with Joyce Donnan and Helen Fox participating.

Edmonton Peace River Presbyterial held a meeting at Millwoods Church on October 10.

One of our members, Catherine Leadbetter, will be moving to Perth, Ontario. To honour her we had special refreshments - fancy breads, ice cream cake, coffee and tea. Mr. Whitton gave the grace. Later Norma Proudfoot presented her with a travel book.

Millie Freeman, President, conducted a short meeting. She mentioned the valuable contribution that Catherine Leadbetter had made to the WMS in Edmonton.

Ann Paterson gave an interesting report on the Western Women's Conference held last June in Saskatoon.

A short prayer by Rev. Ken Wheaton closed the meeting.

Oak Ridges Presbyterial held their Fall Rally on September 29 in Sutton Church, Sutton, Ontario.

President Ellen Parker presided over the meeting The morning started with a sing-along led by Ellen Parker, Mary Foster and Eleanor Glegg. The Rev. Jim Young of Sutton extended a warm welcome to everyone. The women of Sutton led a very meaningful worship service.

Ellen Parker welcomed guest speaker, June Stevenson, editor of Glad Tidings. June's theme was "Reflections Along the Way." Everyone was touched and impressed by June's passion and enthusiasm for the WMS.

Jean Smith presented the treasurer's report, Mary-Edith Nevils the book report, and Wilma Medley the newsletter report. Jean Ellis gave the courtesies and Ellen Parker closed the meeting with prayer.

Brockville Presbyterial held their Fall Rally in the Morewood Presbyterian Hall, October 25.

The theme was *Choose Life*. President Margaret Reynolds welcomed everyone including Isobel Woolridge of Morewood. Druse Bryan, President of Quebec and Eastern Ontario, brought greetings.

The call to worship and scripture selections and song followed the theme and our thankfulness for creation through the spirit.

Margaret introduced Dr. Clarence McMullen of Thornhill, recently retired missionary after 40 years in India. Clarence taught in the Christian College in the Punjab area of India where he was born. He credited the work of the WMS. He observed that the church is alive where mission is an enlivening and integral part of Christ's Church.

Judy Messenger voiced appreciation to all participants.

Saturday, October 27, 2001 **West Toronto** Presbyterial held their Fall Rally at Coldstream Church. President Carolyn Jones welcomed everyone including guests from East Toronto Presbyterial. Eleanor Dean led in devotions.

Guest speaker, Rev. Sarah Kim, was introduced by Dorothy Hopper, a member of her former congregation. Our new Executive Secretary shared with us the great learning experience she has had since starting in September, and how she is still learning about WMS.

The audience was involved in sharing amongst themselves, and later as a whole, what WMS means to them.

Sarah outlined a few of her hopes for WMS and asked that we think of our vision too. Several women expressed the concern that mission should be talked about more with our children. The WMS must also become better known in the church, at all levels, and use this visibility to promote the mission work we do. Sarah thanked us for our efforts in the past and encouraged us to be faithful to mission work.

The Fall Rally of **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial was held in Knox, Listowel. About ninety ladies registered for the day long meeting.

Nancy Schrieber organized the morning program when the women visited three older traditional churches and two newer ones, and learned of the development of their church buildings. At Knox Presbyterian and Trinity United, it was interesting to see the memorial windows in memory of their boys who had lost their lives when the hockey arena collapsed several years ago. Rev. John Zondag explained the various features of Knox.

At the United Church, George Gracey described the development of the various parts of their church. The third older church was Christ Church Anglican where Pauline Yang give its history, noting that the original pipe organ is still there.

Just west of Listowel is the large new First Baptist Church. Bob Lewis explained how they recently moved from a small church downtown to their modern new church. Of special interest to the Presbyterians was the Baptistry, and his explanation of how adult baptism is carried out. The last church visited was the ten-year-old St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church where Father Graham Keep noted that they had several Portuguese families.

During lunch, served by Listowel Willing Workers and Wallace WMS, Lois Horne, North Easthope, reviewed several books that were available at the book table. Rev. Mark Davidson welcomed the women to the church.

To begin the afternoon the Senior Serenaders entertained with a varied musical program. They were thanked by Donna Webster, Exeter. Monkton WMS was in charge of the devotions with Eldeen Ward and Ruth Ward taking the scripture and prayer. Marion Smith gave a thought-provoking meditation on the theme of our creation and environment.

Rev. Shirley McCuaig, Atwood, was the guest speaker. She pointed out that God's world is the whole world, not just North America. She had been to Nicaragua to help build a school.

Local

On Sunday, October 28, **Morrisburg Knox** WMS group held their annual Thankoffering service during the morning worship. We were delighted to have Dr. Clarence McMullen, missionary retired from Punjab, India where he began his work about 40 years ago.

President Margaret Reynolds conducted the service with the assistance of other WMS members and Knox choir with organist Gary Postma. After the service everyone was invited to stay for a delicious pot luck lunch and an opportunity to visit with Dr. McMullen.

Knox Afternoon Group of **Victoria, BC** lost a valued member with the passing of **Roberta (Bobby) Stevenson** on October 5, 2001. Bobby was a Life Member of the WMS and at one time the Knox Church Secretary, the WMS Secretary and a long-serving member of the Church Board.

She was a regular attender at Church Services and WMS meetings, even recently when she had to move into a nursing home and was confined to a wheel chair. Bobby's quiet and friendly manner endeared her to all who came in contact with her, and many mourn her passing.

Roberta Stevenson

On Sunday May 24 during regular worship, a loyal long time supporter of the **Knox** Afternoon Group, **Victoria, BC**, Mary Carroll was presented with an Honorary Membership certificate and pin. Mary was church organist for many years, and is now a very hard working Clerk of Session. Like her mother Lois, Mary has done everything possible to support WMS work in Knox over the years.

Margaret Bonin and Marion Crockett were also presented with Life Membership

certificates and pins. In the picture above (left to right) are Edna Kirk, Programme Planner, Mary Carroll, Marion Crockett, Emily Campbell, Secretary, Margaret Bonin and Nita Judd, President.

In August, at a special meeting, **Knox** Afternoon Group, **Victoria, BC**, were delighted to present Sunday School pupil **Grace Yang** (pictured below, second from left) with a Certificate of Recognition and pendant for her unique financial contribution to our missionary project "Mosquito Nets for Malawi."

With Grace is Anna Davidson, Vice-President, left, and Grace's parents Iris and Michael Yang. Fortunately Michael was home on holiday for this occasion.

Mrs. **Doreen Burnside** who died recently in Ottawa was a faithful member of **Erskine Church, Ottawa.**

Before illness confined her to home and later to a Nursing Home she was a

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

The Steady Subscriber

How dear to my heart is the steady subscriber,
Who pays in advance at the birth of each year -
Who lays down the money, and does it quite gladly,
And casts 'round the office a halo of cheer.
She never says: 'Stop it; I cannot afford it;
I'm getting more papers than now I can read;'
But always says: 'Send it; our people all like it;
In fact, we all think it a help and a need.'
How welcome her cheque when it reaches our sanctum!
How it makes our pulse throb! how it makes our heart dance!
We outwardly thank her; we inwardly bless her -
The steady subscriber who pays in advance.

- Glad Tidings, September, 1931

As of November 15, 72 lists were outstanding. They were due November 1. Hopefully we will soon hear from these groups, as it is costly to send renewals. If your group has disbanded, we still need to receive the information from the subscription lists.

When you receive your magazine please check that your name and address are correct (make sure there is a box number or street address). If there is a change in your address, please notify us immediately.

member of Erskine Church's Pastoral Care Team and Erskine Missionary Fellowship. She volunteered for many years in The Heart Institute of the Civic Campus of the Ottawa Hospital. Our sympathy goes to Ron, Thomas and other family members.

St. Andrew's WMS of **Barrie** is blessed to celebrate the life of Myra McFarlane who lost her battle with a number of health problems on September 10, 2001. Her husband, three daughters and a son survive her.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Myra received her Registered Nursing Degree from the Royal Glasgow Infirmary. She led a life of service to her family, her church and her nursing career where she specialized in Psychiatric nursing. When they moved to Barrie, from London, Ontario, she continued to serve through volunteer work at her church.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUIZ

1. hornets	E- Exodus 23:28
2. stork	A- Ps. 104:17
3. wild goats	D- Ps. 104:18
4. locusts	H- Prov. 30:27
5. bear	C- 1 Sam. 17:34
6. spider	J- Prov. 30:28
7. roebucks	F- 1 Kings 4:23
8. bittern	I- Zeph. 2:14
9. golden mice	B-1 Sam. 6:4
10. peacocks	G- 1 Kings 10:22

She was a loyal, hardworking, dedicated member. She held many offices in our group and also on the Executive of Barrie Presbyterial. She was in her second year as President.

Myra was a wonderful friend, with an outstanding gift of bringing sunshine to shut-ins and the ill. She convened the Craft table for our teas, and organized a Soup Kitchen team for years. That is how we will remember Myra - as we help each other.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Jean Bingham
Vera Lemmon
Muriel Saunders
Marion Slaughter
St. Andrew's, Arnprior, ON

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Knox, Belmore, ON

Kathleen (Hay) Muir
St. Enoch's, Hamilton, ON

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Mrs. Grace Ruddell
St. John and St. Andrew
Hamilton, ON

Mrs. Josephine Anderson
Knox, Havelock, ON

Mrs. Winnifred McKenzie
Knox, Monkton, ON

Mrs. Doreen Burnside
Erskine, Ottawa, ON

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First, Port Colborne, ON

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Mrs. Hazel Thede
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Elizabeth Soutar
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Calvin, Toronto, ON

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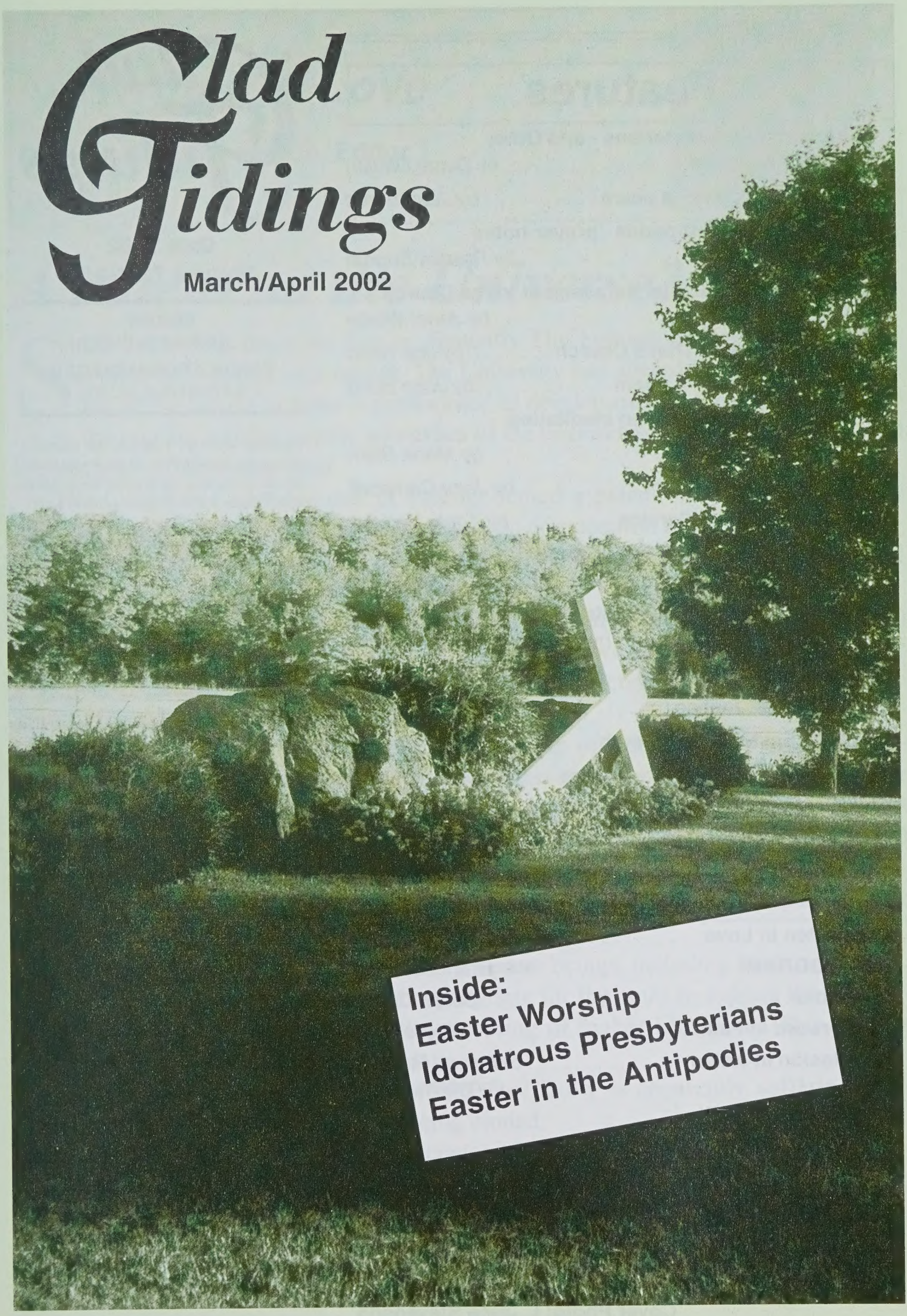
March/April 2002



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GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

March 2002

A Patent on the Universe?

Such interesting times we live in. Recently The Fellows of Harvard University applied for a patent on a mouse. The University had altered the genetic composition of the mouse to make it predisposed to develop cancer. A patent was applied for on the process and the genetic anomalies of the oncomouse (as it is usually referred to), and also on the mouse itself.

The Canadian Commissioner of Patents denied a patent on the creature, while granting patents over the process and the genetic composition of the mouse. The Federal Court of Appeal, overturned that decision and that of The Federal Court, Trial Division, which upheld the Commissioner's decision.

Janet Somerville, General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) asked how we can patent a fellow creature, even if we have caused it to change genetically. "How do we honour, in law, the priority of creation as a whole over any current human plan, " she said.

The CCC and the EFC (Evangelical Fellowship of Canada) were granted intervener status in the case currently before the Supreme Court of Canada. They argue that the patenting of mammals commodifies and objectifies life. "Further, " a news item says, "the ownership interest created by granting a patent is offensive as applied to higher life forms because it creates rights in the patent holder without any corresponding responsibilities for the life and health of animals subject to the patent." The matter will not likely be heard until late spring.

The question is also raised of patenting human beings, including human embryos. The churches will argue that it is not appropriate for the court to expand the application of the Patent Act by allowing the patenting of higher life forms. This issue is better addressed by Parliament, they say.

I wonder what Dolly the sheep would say? Dolly is apparently suffering from early arthritis, possibly as a result of being cloned.

How far will science take us in its relentless but understandable search for medical cures? Let us remember we are called to be caretakers of the earth and all that is in it. There is only one patent on the universe and God holds that!

Idolatrous Presbyterians - and Other Misconceptions

by Diane Dadian

In the midst of all the post-September 11th (2001) talk about Christianity and Islam, terrorism and jihad, several truths become painfully clear. Most Christians don't know very much about Muslims. Equally true, however, is that Muslims don't know very much about us either.

Some years ago the Islamic Centre of Toronto, the Jami Mosque, printed a brochure called "The Real Picture, A Positive Outlook." In its opening paragraph the writer stated that "in the early seventies the Muslim community of Toronto bought a sizeable Presbyterian church and converted it to a house of Allah."

My eyebrows rose. "Allah" is the Arabic word for "God", used alike by both Christians and Muslims although their concepts of God differ. Surely, I thought, even in the days when the Presbyterians used the building, it was God's house. Still sputtering, I read the next sentence: "Since then, thousands of Muslims have worshipped Allah in this place, where idols used to be worshipped."

Idols? I wondered, What idols?

"Maybe they thought we pray to the stained glass windows?" a friend suggested. We smiled, thinking the writer certainly didn't know Presbyterians very well.

Isn't that often the point? Muslims and Christians really don't know each other. Worse yet, many misinformed people often think they know a lot!

The following are a few common errors that Muslims make about Christianity.

Western Culture Equals Christian Culture

"Oh, I learned all about Christianity before I left Turkey," the woman told me brightly. "We saw many Western movies!"

My blood ran cold as I contemplated crime, violence, x-rated scenes, and other aspects of Western-film-making. Was this her opinion of Christianity? It was!

In the Middle East there is no such thing as a "private faith"! Religious values affect every part of society. An Islamic society, for example, is just that: Islamic and also society. To the startled Middle Easterner the body-pierced, tattooed youth on the street or the raging alcoholic media star with the multiple lovers is both Western and Christian. And so are our politics.

* "Canada is a Christian country, right?" another friend asked.*

While I hesitated before replying, she went on. "How can a Christian country support these atrocities?" She listed a few things which I agreed were atrocious and also definitely not Christian.

It was hard to figure out how to reply. Finally I reminded her that what our government does is not necessarily Christian. How do we explain the concept of "secular government" to a person from a totally different world?

*** "You pray to three gods, don't you?"***

"You Christians pray to three gods!" the young Somali fellow informed me. He was driving us to the subway station. His aunt and her two friends stiffened with anger at his rudeness.

Not wanting to distract him from his driving but aware of the indignant murmuring from the back seat, I asked him quickly, "And just who are those three gods?"

"God, Jesus, and Mary!" he replied promptly, eyes on traffic. He seemed very sure of himself - and very young.

"How can you say that?" I cried out dramatically. "That would be idolatry! We do have something we call a 'Trinity' but Mary isn't even in it." I paused, wishing some theologian would get in the car and take over the conversation. When nobody came, I continued. "We think of the Three as One. There is no thought of having three separate gods."

Yet, I thought glumly, many Muslims do think we have three gods, separate entities sitting one-two-three in a row. They don't know us. They think they do but they get some of the facts wrong.

Just a bunch of drunks!

"We can't drink alcohol but you Christians do!" Muslims say that to me all the time, often a bit enviously.

Islam is a tough religion, full of rules. Adherents can't drink alcohol or eat pork, to name two. The pork part is easy, most people not being too attracted to pigs on the hoof.

"In the early seventies the Muslim community of Toronto bought a sizeable Presbyterian church and converted it to a house of Allah... Since then, thousands of Muslims have worshipped Allah in this place, where idols used to be worshipped."

But alcohol! Again the images of the lascivious West, all the beer commercials on TV, the innumerable liquour stores, the frequent car accidents caused by drunk drivers (Western and therefore Christian) do influence a Muslim's thinking.

"Yes, we can drink alcohol" I agree affably. "At least some Christians feel we can. Others firmly believe that we cannot. But we all agree that the Bible forbids drunkenness."

(Here, if it's appropriate, we can share the concept that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, that we keep ourselves pure because of Him. Somehow we try to lay a spiritual foundation and move beyond rule-keeping.)

The worry shared by Christians and Muslims alike

My husband brought the Afghan couple home, supremely confident that I would be welcoming despite the fact that we were moving to a new home the next day. It was not their fault, I reminded myself, arranging kitchen chairs in a half-circle in front of towering stacks of boxes.

Seating my guests, I hurried to the kitchen for something to serve them. Our 12-year-old daughter found me there, unpacking a tray, locating cups for tea.

"Don't worry! I'll bring something!" were the amazing words that came from her mouth.

Soon she did bring out the tray with tea things on it, setting it down on one of the boxes now doubling as end tables. She performed with the competent grace of any dutiful Middle Eastern daughter.

"How do you do it?" the Afghan wife broke into my thoughts. She sighed deeply. "We worry so much about our children here in Canada. Back home in Afghanistan they obey their parents. But here! They are rude and disobedient. They break all the rules."

Feeling like a hypocrite, remembering a few hair-raising incidents with our own two children, I answered her, "Well, ours are not exactly perfect either!" Then I pitied her and grew more serious. Here was a big chance to show her what our faith is really like.

"We worry about our children, too," I confessed. "We live in such a corrupt, evil society! But I have told them that they are answerable to God, that they can deceive me and their father pretty easily but that God sees everything."

I looked at her nice, worried face. "We try to build something in their hearts. It's not enough only to lay down rules. This is why we introduce them to Jesus while they are still babies. Jesus is alive and real. He loves them and He will guide them."

We talked more about this in that bare room with the pictures and books all packed up, setting our tea cups down on the filled, sealed boxes. Our husbands chatted nearby. It was strangely peaceful.

*** "Just let them know you!"***

Often Muslims live near us and yet do not know us. They walk past our churches and never go in. They live with wrong ideas about us, sticking to their stereotypes of the "Christian West."

A young Afghan newcomer heard this discussion recently and confessed to having had the same wrong ideas when he came to Canada. But, he told us earnestly, there was a cure for all this.

"Just let them know you!" he insisted. "Just let them see how you Christians live your lives and what you do when something happens."

"Just let them know you!"

Diane Dadian and her husband Calvin worked in a largely Muslim area in Ethiopia where they were married. They have befriended and helped resettle newcomers to Canada since 1967, many of them Muslim and from the Middle East and East Africa. Diane and Calvin are part of Knox, Spadina, Toronto congregation.

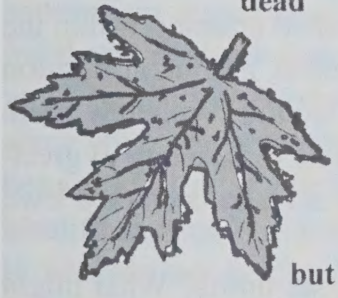
Life really is a piece of cake
With angel food for some
Devil's food for others
Crumbs for third world brothers.
Jean Elford

Easter in the Antipodes - Prayer Notes

by Rosalie Sugrue

In
the cathedral of the park
autumn trees stand tall and stark
leaves in crimson gold and browns
are transformed by Easter gowns
dancing flakes of fractured light
delight in brief unfettered flight
reflect deflect and genuflect
as they bound and mound
making stained-glass
patterns on the
ground

In
autumn leaves
wear golden brown
or gowns of russet red
free at last to see the town
they hustle bustle down
where they keep on
dancing prancing
even though
they are
dead



God
is
if
we
but look and see
and open hearts to reality
colour and vigour make our Lent
recalling Christ His life well spent
with freezers full the harvest is ours
God flings fruit on top of flowers
feel the Spirit rushing free
see God in leaves blown
from painted tree
think on God
and be

April
leaves
are tumbling
down the driveway
with rustle and flutter
holding meetings in the
yard where they leap
heap and mutter
then they skitter
down the street
to carpet the
gutter

Yes
yes
the
dance will die
the leaves are dead
lie they now in heaps of red
reds will fade to fibre brown
fibres crumble and seep down
composting to enrich the earth
from dark humus comes rebirth
new seeds germinate and grow
nurtured well from soil below
death and life together bind
forming strange connection
when touched by God we
also find surprising
resurrection

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Emergency Issue - March 2001

Be Prepared: Sexual Harassment in the Church

by Janet Wiebe

Have you or any member of your family ever been subjected to sexual harassment? Anyone is vulnerable to harassment, male or female, young or old. It can happen anywhere, at home, school, work, on the street, or within the church.

When I was working on my book *Unholy Orders: Abuse of Power that Tempts Us All*[1], I encountered women with horrifying experiences of abuse within a church setting. Two reliable sources, that had no way of knowing one another, spoke of their denomination's "dirty little secret."

Female seminary students were sexually compromised in a professor's office. When one of them reported her "incident" of the professor sexually assaulting her, the perpetrator was protected and the female student was denied ordination.

Another student sought help in the hierarchy but she was assaulted again by the men to whom she appealed to. If no one believed her the first time, so the reasoning went, she was fair game for further assault by anyone within the church system.

A Roman Catholic woman, already sexually injured by a family member and receiving counselling, had sex regularly with her priest in sympathy for his not being allowed to marry. The cleric manipulated her past conditioned responses with her sense of injustice and compassion for the political situation of Roman Catholic clergy. She was seduced into thinking she was correcting a wrong.

Sexual Harassment Defined...

Sexual harassment, a precursor to sexual assault, is a sin of opportunity often disguising itself as seduction. Federal law states that sexual assault is restricted to the actual touching of sexual parts of your body without consent.

Perpetrators use lewdness, indecent behaviour, to test how far they can go. Lewdness is in bad taste but it is not a criminal act. Sexual innuendo is difficult to negotiate when society tolerates lewd behaviour. An embrace is a fullbodied clasping within the arms of another person, a difficult position for the recipient to tactfully withdraw from. What we may assume to be a hug of greeting or support may actually become a lewd embrace.

How does one set limits? What might the limits be? Is an embrace from a person in authority ever appropriate, considering the danger of crossing another's personal boundary and comfort zone?

We Are Sexual Beings...

Our bodies are created to respond to physical contact. An infant cannot live and thrive without being touched and held. We respond to the gestures of loved ones. Physical intimacy with a loved one is welcome and anticipated. We are physically "wired" to respond positively. When an acquaintance or person of authority chooses to behave in the same intimate manner towards us, our bodies may automatically respond to the stimulus of intimate embrace and sexual touch.

Therefore, it is difficult to turn a quick about-face when words and gestures normally filled with love and affection are suddenly fouled with evil intent or misplaced attention. Perpetrators function with an attitude of presumption that the target object, or "victim" wants the sexual advance. They cannot be "reasoned" out of this attitude. The only effective solution is to flee. Trying to reason with a perpetrator is interpreted as agreement. You have entered into the perpetrator's rules of the game, to keep you dangling for as long as it takes.

We need to be aware when appropriate boundaries are crossed, and to be prepared with speedy and effective responses to inappropriate sexual environments. Pretending that it does not happen to good people is no protection. Sexual harassment and abuse are a syndrome, an identifiable set of behavioural characteristics that we can identify as sexual harassment. Unfortunately we may not realize this until after the fact.

It Is Not Your Fault...

If you are a victim of sexual harassment, it is important to be clear to yourself and to your loved ones that it is not your fault no matter what you think you should have done differently. You just happened to be available. That could be in the choir loft, in the Sunday School, in the supply room, in the minister's office.

Statistics relating to sexually abusive clergy are comparable with the rest of society. In the case of clergy, however, they violate expectations, break public trust, and distort their spiritual leadership.

Some clergy think being lewd and sexually active is a means of giving pastoral care, that of giving someone what they "need." Others compartmentalize their life and ministry, thinking that it is okay to be sexually active with the people under their spiritual care if they take their clerical collar off first. Others think it is permissible so long as the target isn't a member of their own congregation. Back in the 1980s the percentage of clergy sexual offenders who actively looked for opportunities to offend was 10%, according to Presbyterian (USA) minister, G. Lloyd Rediger. Another 15% of clergy sexually offended if the opportunity presented itself.

Reinforcing Offending Behaviour...

A sexual harasser escalates the offending behaviour if there is reinforcement of any kind. Denial by the management or ruling elders in a church is a powerful reinforcement which helps to escalate abusive behaviour. The offender becomes empowered, feeling that the law and the church can't touch him.

For example, when a minister or other church leader makes lewd sexual jokes in front of people, that behaviour needs to be challenged immediately. It should be declared unacceptable for everyone who heard the offending remarks. Silent embarrassment encourages more offending behaviour of the same kind as the offender assumes those who are silent are willing recipients of such talk and are of the same lewd mind.

Being willing and able to use such sexualized language means misinterpreting even neutral behaviour of others. For example, a request for prayer may be interpreted as an excuse to be alone with the cleric because the person is sexually attracted to him. The congregation is conditioned to feel helpless so that with each report about the clergy person's sexualized behaviour the people of the church may see the behaviour as "just his way." Misplaced loyalty develops towards the "representative of God" by denying the problem instead of heeding the fear of God.

Potentially Explosive Situations...

Are you in an escalating and potentially sexually explosive situation? Does the minister (usually a "he") ignore your space boundaries by being physically too close or by placing his hand on your thigh, etc? Does he ignore your wishes, make light of your shock when he has been either verbally or physically inappropriate? Attempt to make you feel guilty or accuse you of being "uptight"? Become hostile and/or increasingly more aggressive when you say "no"?

Does he act particularly friendly and try to separate you from your friends? Insist on being alone with you? Does he ask personal questions and seem interested in knowing more about you than you want to tell him? Does he have an unusually personalized approach to individuals? Does he subscribe excessively to traditional male and female stereotypes? Has it become commonplace that every private conversation in the minister's office ends up in a sexual embrace? Does he claim you are the only one in the church he can trust? This "connection" is an illusion to gain control.

Are people seen as either "for" or "against" the sexual/romance/relationship addict? Congregations become polarized and accusations are made about "those people" who are against the addict. This self-fulfilling tactic has split churches. Be assured you are not over-reacting. But the people around him may be conditioned to accept his behaviours as just a part of his "warm" personality and assume he is just a "touching" person.

Potential victims are tested. Pay attention to remarks and comments made to you which may reveal true feelings. If the potential victim does not react even if obviously uncomfortable to a hand put on the thigh, she is identified as an easy prey.

Many harassers are repeat offenders and are skilled at identifying weaknesses in potential victims. The main goal is control and manipulation. It isn't personal to him. According to Dr. Paul Pearsall, "He is just perfecting and sharpening his addictive skill set: it increasingly becomes a habitual game, an unhealthy cycle of relating, a compulsive personality pattern. From a sexual healing point of view it is the difficulty in connecting with someone else over time on many levels. All the energy normally spread out to these many levels are honed in on the sexual manipulation game[2]."

Some harassers exhibit a Jekyll-and-Hyde personality. Others may appear to be gentlemanly and charming but, under stress or when he finds a vulnerable victim, his personality changes.

Denial, a type of lying or misleading oneself and others, inoculates him and his victims from their feelings, thoughts and needs. From the seed of denial grows the illusion of control. If a person convinces himself it is not happening, then the situation is not addressed.

Verbal threats are typical from someone that doesn't want to be reported. Who is not going to believe the leader in question who has worked so hard to be a buddy with the men? People, one way or another, have come to feel indebted to him. A major social spiritual fabric of one's life is destroyed if the discrediting statements about you by the offender and by his supporters are believed by the church family. It is difficult for the target person not to be in shock when a clergy person manipulates and controls with sexual overtures. A real sense of betrayal sets in when the church family does not support the individual targeted.

Stop the Cycle Now!...

Stop the cycle of denial with education so we can repent before God and become a healing church even as Jesus Christ our Lord has sent us the Holy Spirit to heal. This article is but a first step to understanding and to being educated out of our position of denial.

Intercede in prayer daily for our church leaders and for our sexually addictive society. Declare God's purposes and your authority in Christ over all that is evil. Realize that as offensive this topic is to you, it is even more offensive to our Holy Father in heaven. Such evil cannot stand against a praying church.

A Prayer for Healing:

Jesus, let the fingers that put the galaxies in place reach deep inside the ailing body of Your Church and rearrange its parts. Speak the Word that made heaven and earth in order that Your church body may be recreated. Make the temple of this body whole and holy, that Your will may be done perfectly through it. We are but the fuse for the power of the Almighty God to pour through us.

Father, in Jesus' name, we pray a protective hedge round about our clergy and church leaders. Establish Your will and plan for our ordained leaders and families, their ministry, the elders, their spouses, children, parents, siblings, and entire church staff and their families. I pray that evil will be overcome. Amen.

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[1] Janet Booker, UnHoly Orders: Abuse of Power That Tempts Us All; The Identification and Recovery Process from Sexual Harassment and Assault by Clergy and Other Religious Leaders. FreedomLine Enterprises (see Book Review on p 28 this issue). xi-xxii. Dr. Paul Pearsall, PhD., *Sexual Healing, Using the Power of an Intimate, Loving Relationship to Heal Your Body and Soul*, Crown Publishers Inc., New York, N.Y.,1994, 177.

[2] Booker, Ibid, 11. Carol Pritchard, *Avoiding Rape On and Off Campus*, State College Publishing Company, N.J., 1988, 18-21.

Every congregation was provided with a copy of the policy for dealing with sexual abuse and/or harassment produced by Ministry and Church vocations, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1998, available on request from The Book Room and can be photocopied. Additional copies $3.25 for 25. It can also be found on the Church's Web site:www.presbyterian.ca

That's Mission. That's Church!

by Joe Reed

From Toronto to Managua the Moderator reflects on mission.

A web of glee radiated out across his forehead. Pharmaceutical companies describe these lines as age lines and sell creams and lotions to erase them. But the eyes danced. Santa Claus.

His stained fingers pound the small keyboard. "The Poor People of Paris." "Midnight in Moscow," "Moon over Tunisia" - sounds like a travelogue. Jazz tunes of which I'd never heard. And, indeed, the fingers pound. The smoke filled room vibrates.

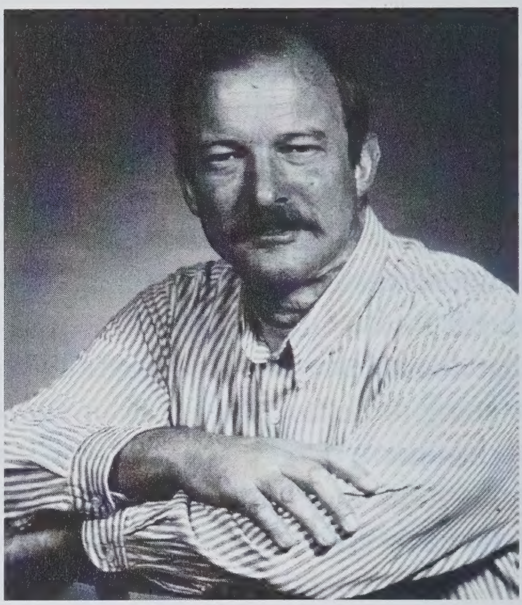
No club this. Although the pianist has played dozens.

A cheap rooming house in downtown Toronto. One of the better ones.

It's a party - and a great one at that. Residents call out tunes and the nicotined fingers dance across the keys. Somebody asks for Beethoven, but the keyboard is too short - not enough keys to do justice.

You've seen these residents, tripped over them, passed them by because they're different, scary, even smelly. But here they are at home, and alive: eyes dancing.

A stately house. The street lined with mature oaks and smelling of leaves burning. What must this part of the city have once boasted? The movers and shakers of the last century. Today, those who most depend upon us all crowded into the yellow, fluorescent lit basement room, once a storage area, now the "lounge."



Rev. Dr. Joseph Reed, Moderator of the 127th General Assembly

Another clip: The rain pours down in Managua. At the traffic light a tiny boy, crying, but his tears mingled with the rain. "I need to sell these shorts...tonight. Nobody is buying. Can you drive me to the next set of lights...maybe somebody there will want them..."

He is ten. Selling cheap gym shorts to motorists who have to stop at the lights. A captive audience for a desperate child, desperate to raise money to pay for food and for his grade three report card. Money he must pay tomorrow.

The Christian gospel, of course, is more than social work. Not that there is anything wrong with good social work.

But the Gospel is not something we do for other people out of love for them or of the Christ. It is the joy of recognizing ourselves in others, of realizing that it is in serving that we ourselves are served; that it is in giving that we receive. The church brings seemingly different people together to allow us to discover ourselves.

Several weeks ago, I had supper with an older friend of mine, a former banker who had spent his life in Montreal's corridors of power. In retirement, he has begun to volunteer in a downtown church near Place des Arts where street people spend the night on thin mattresses in the church gym. Last winter a so-called "bag lady" froze to death outside under a tiny pine tree beside a parking lot: preferring the outdoors to the shelters.

In any case, the banker remarked, "Until I started serving soup, I'd never really met a homeless person, somebody who lives on the streets. Now some of them are my friends."

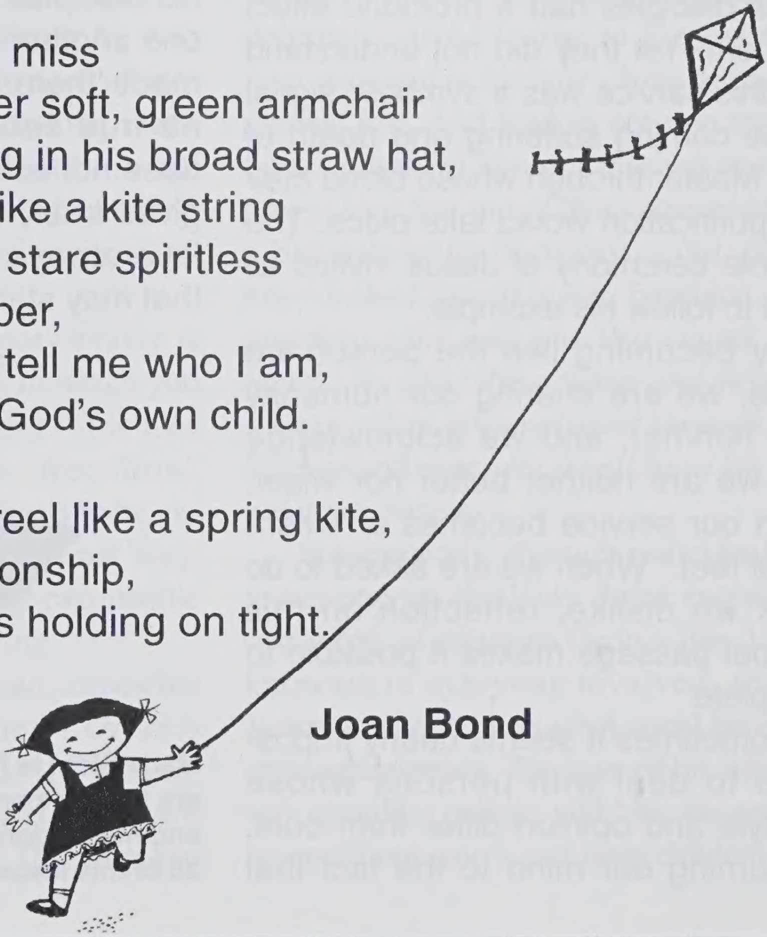
That's mission. That's church.

The Gospel is not something we do for other people out of love for them or of the Christ. It is the joy of recognizing ourselves in others, of realizing that it is in serving that we ourselves are served; that it is in giving that we receive.

Kids and Kites

Sometimes when I miss
Mom, reading in her soft, green armchair
and Dad, gardening in his broad straw hat,
my heart tightens like a kite string
and eyes moisten, stare spiritless
It is then You whisper,
Holy Comforter, to tell me who I am,
not orphaned, but God's own child.
And with this
I rise and dip and reel like a spring kite,
feeling the tug of sonship,
the Father's fingers holding on tight.

Joan Bond



Washing Feet

A Lenten Meditation

by Maria Stam

"Jesus got up from the table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it around his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing."
(John 13:4-5)

This passage in John's Gospel has often inspired me to look at the real meaning of service. Jesus' simple act of washing the feet of his disciples had a profound effect on them. Yet they did not understand that this service was a symbolic signal of the coming suffering and death of their Master through whose blood their real purification would take place. The humble ceremony of Jesus invites all of us to follow his example.

By becoming like the person we serve, we are sharing our humanity with him/her, and we acknowledge that we are neither better nor wiser. Then our service becomes a "washing of feet." When we are asked to do work we dislike, reflection on this Gospel passage makes it possible to complete

Sometimes it seems nearly impossible to deal with persons whose lifestyle and opinion differ from ours. By turning our mind to the fact that Jesus treated all people, even the sinners, justly, it will be easier for us to accept them as they are and to respect their human dignity. In the eyes of God we are all equal as Christ demonstrated through washing the feet of his disciples. Lowering himself to their level, He united them into a partnership of equals.

We all have times when our pride tempts us to turn away from serving others, but by meditating on Christ's humility to give himself over to torture and death on the cross for our sins, we find it easier to help our neighbour. The more we try to think of Christ's example, the easier it becomes to stand back and to place the person to be served first.

With the command, Jesus gave to his disciples after the washing, "Love one another as I have loved you," He made them understand that there is no true service without love. Love does not ask for anything in return; it gives freely and unselfishly. Genuine love always tries to remove barriers that may stand in the way.

Maria Stam is familiar to Glad Tidings readers for her many insightful poems, articles and meditations. See Book Review on page 28 of this issue.

Intercessory Prayer:

Praying the Lord's Prayer*

by June Campbell

* Matthew 6: 9-13

Do you remember the song, "I was walking along minding my business, when out of an orange coloured sky...?" Well, I was walking to work one morning a few years ago when "out of the blue" - being morning - an idea for intercessory prayer came into my head: Use our Lord's prayer for intercession"!

I had been learning a deeper level of intercessory prayer through the needs of a young friend I'll call Orrin - not that he was necessarily feeling that need. His mother and I, and others, were aware of his needs. He had become involved in the drug scene in our town. Preliminary to getting his social work degree he was working as an aide to those in need of special assistance. He began smoking marijuana in sympathy with a client his age who suffered great pain from rheumatoid arthritis. But, of course, Orrin was in no pain!

This method of intercessory prayer is not original. There are books in which you can explore the subject further. This idea was worked out for me in "free form" using the Lord's Prayer as a basis to be expanded upon in the most personal way, never the same regarding any two people for whom one might be praying.

In this case, it worked out somewhat along this line: Our Father - *Orrin's Father, my Father* - Who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name - *May Orrin learn to truly hallow Your Name. Thy kingdom come, - please, dear Lord, may Your kingdom dawn on his life. Thy will be done on earth - for him* - as it is in heaven - *as it is always being worked out with the greatest love imaginable for him in heaven. You will never give up on him.* Give us this day our daily bread; - *give him this day his daily bread - may he learn to desire spiritual bread from the right sources.* And forgive us our debts, - *And forgive him his trespasses - many and serious* - As we also have forgiven our debtors; - *as he learns to forgive those who, now and in his past - have trespassed against him.* And lead us not into temptation, - *and lead him not into temptation - please lead him out of these circumstances* - But deliver us from evil. - *but deliver him - indeed from this evil.* For thine is the kingdom - *the only one that counts* - the power - *to effect these things and the glory - when all is accomplished through You.* Forever and ever - *for it will be to his eternal good.* Amen.

Subsequently, through individual and group prayers the Holy Spirit engineered one week of crisis in Orrin's life. Unbeknownst to everyone involved, several factors coalesced into what could be called crisis intervention. The love of his life who was attending college told him she certainly would not marry and have children with someone on drugs. His parents informed him (in a "tough love" approach) that he would have to move out of the house if this continued, and his employer who had by now heard what was going on, let Orrin know he'd be out of a job if this didn't stop.

Orrin came to the right decision and wrote heartfelt letters of apology to each concerned. Although he has not gone on with his education he has held the same steady job for years and even endeavoured to start his own business (which did not work out). He married the love of his life and they have a wonderful little boy. There is still much to pray about in this young family's life, but isn't that true for each of us?

When I became uncertain about whether there was something 'wrong' with this type of prayer I talked with our minister and he became enthusiastic about it, confirming that our Lord's prayer was a pattern prayer that he was giving to his disciples and therefore, to us. Others to whom I've mentioned it also affirmed the idea.

One of the practical effects I've found is that, especially in the middle of the night when I can't sleep I can use this rote prayer with the expansion with just enough alertness to pray. When my mind goes off on a tangent I can easily identify which phrase I last prayed. If I fall asleep somewhere within it I seem to remember when I awaken where I left off. I think this is because of the "rote" aspect of the prayer. Another aspect is that I find when I've completed the prayer that I've prayed every angle I can think of at the time for that person.

I am finding that when we "repeat" the Lord's prayer in church or elsewhere within a group I can more fully actually pray the words instead of just saying them by rote.

Expanding on this idea, why not pray our loved ones' names within other standard prayers, hymns and choruses?

I cannot claim that I do this nearly enough but I am frequently called back to it and reminded of praying in this way. God help us all to be confirmed in our belief in the power of prayer.

June Campbell is a member of the Editorial Committee, President of Toronto-Kingston-Synodical, and on Council Executive.

Between us we sent:

60 lbs of stamps!

to The Leprosy Mission Canada. Here at 50 Wynford we send stamps that are sent to us to help cure leprosy. Thanks to everyone!

An Easter Worship Service

by Adele Halliday

Directions for Leaders: Read through the service, noting the number of players or voices you will need. Assign them beforehand. People can play more than one role. Women can play male roles. Arrange for simple costumes if desired, such as sandals, scarves or shawls.

Call to worship: Give ear to my words; O Lord, give heed to my sighing. Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray. O Lord, in the morning, I plead my case to you, and watch. (Psalm 5:1-3, NRSV)

Narrator: Come. Listen to a story. A story of women and men who saw a Saviour die, who mourned his death and also saw new life. Come and experience their stories. Their stories are your stories also.

Opening Hymn: Were you there (#233 Book of Praise 1997, verses 1-5) (Please stand, if able)

Liturgy: (This liturgy should be read by two women - who represent Mary and Salome. The women should stand in a central location. Their reading is a paraphrase of Mark 16:1-8)

Woman 1: Who will roll the stone away?
Woman 2: We have come to pay our respects to Jesus who has died.
Woman 1: Died? He was crucified! And placed in this tomb.
Woman 2: But who will roll the stone away?
Woman 1: We are here early in the morning even before the sun has risen.
Woman 2: And we will anoint his body with spices. But he lies behind the stone in that tomb.
Both women: And who will roll the stone away?

Hymn: Woman in the night (#657 Book of Praise 1997) (Please stand, if able)

Narrator (from Mark 16:4-8, NRSV): When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them,

Voice 1: "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

Woman 1: I am shocked and amazed.
Woman 2: And scared! I don't know what to make of it.
Woman 1: I am also confused. What should we do?
Woman 2: Let us flee this place and tell no one of what we have seen.
Woman 1: But this is good news, is it not?

(Mary and Salome act both confused and excited as they talk to each other.)
(leave a short pause)

Narrator: Hear the good news! Christ has risen!
All: Christ has risen indeed!
Narrator: Christ has risen!
All: Christ has risen indeed!

Hymn: #233 Were you there (Book of Praise 1997, verse 6) (Please remain seated)

Narrator: And so, Mary and Salome left the tomb bewildered and amazed. But Jesus Christ had risen from the dead and was walking among people who knew him well. Jesus continued to appear to people, and others were also amazed and confused.

Narrator: Listen to this story of two men and their story. This is later on in the same day that the women met with an empty tomb.

(Two men begin walking together - and act as though they are discussing something. They use gestures and motions to indicate their conversation. Another person will join them on their journey. This dialogue is from Luke 24:6-15 NRSV.)

Narrator: Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them:

Jesus: What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?

Narrator: They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,

Man 1: Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?

Jesus: What things?

Man 2: The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.

Man 1: Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.

Jesus: Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?

Narrator: Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying,

Man 2: Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.

Narrator: So, he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

Narrator: The two men ran out telling people of what they had seen.

Two Men: Hear the good news! Christ has risen!
All: Christ has risen indeed!
Two Men: Christ has risen!
All: Christ has risen indeed!

Prayer (unison):
Risen Christ, we are grateful that you continue to walk with us on our journeys. We pray that you may continue to open our eyes and that we can see you clearly. Just as you appeared to women and men on that glorious morning so long ago, you appear to us today. Help us to recognize you as our friend who is ever present with us. Amen.

Soloist: Hymn: #445 Open our eyes, Lord (Book of Praise, 1997)

Narrator: We have celebrated the day of resurrection. But how do we see Jesus today? (Slightly adapted from Matthew 25:31-45 NRSV)
Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. And here's why:

Men: I was hungry and you gave me food,
Women: I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
All: I was naked and you gave me a room,
Men: I was shivering and you gave me clothing,
Women: I was sick and you took care of me,
All: I was in prison and you visited me.'

Voice One: Master, what are you talking about? When was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and give you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and came to you?

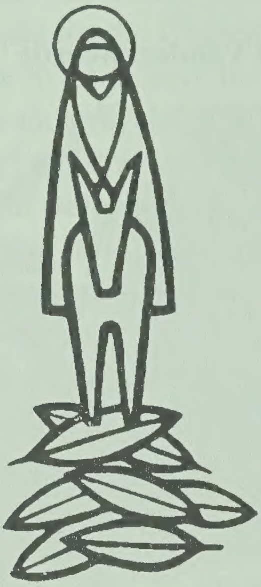
Narrator: And the king will answer them, Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Hymn: #262 Come to us, beloved Stranger (Book of Praise, 1997) (Please stand, if able)

Closing Prayer (unison):
May Christ who loves with a wounded heart shower us with love,
May the Christ who touches with wounded hands be found with us today.
May the Christ who lives with us be seen in people we meet,
And may you find the Christ who walks on wounded feet walking along the road with you. Amen.

Adele Halliday is the Youth Minister at Beaches Presbyterian Church, Toronto. Adele spent one year in Kenya at the Komothai School for the Mentally Handicapped. She had previously done environmental education in Belize in 1999. Presently she is the Resource Coordinator in Global Education for World Vision. She also writes the youth resources for Seasons of the Spirit, an ecumenical curriculum.

Jerusalem



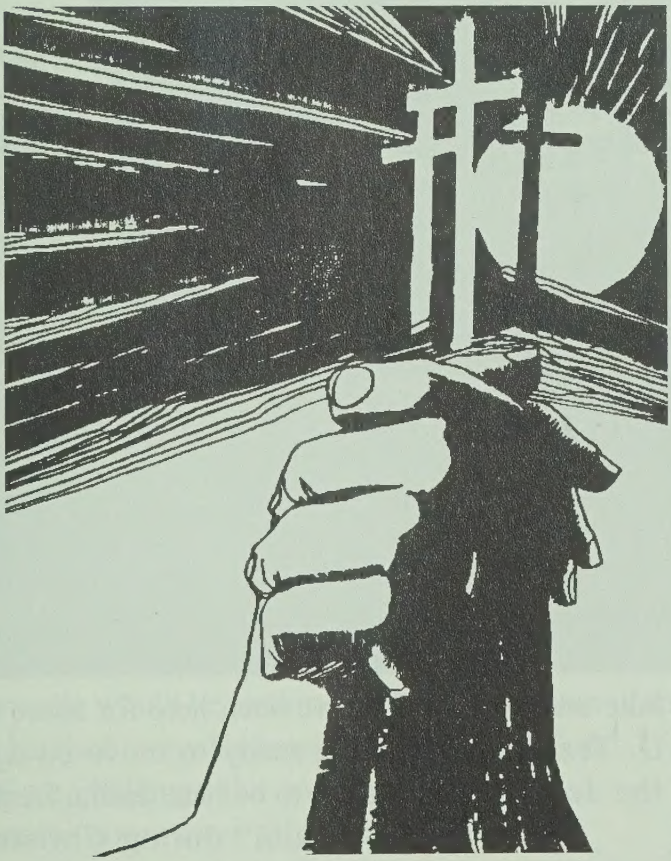
Cavalcade

Palm Sunday
Pilgrims
Rejoicing
Hold branches and hands
Palm to palm
Voicing
Hosanna!
Worship the King!

Calvary

A path of sorrow
a cross
a storm
and darkness
steals the day,
and then
a stone reveals
an empty tomb,
and for us all,
A new tomorrow!

Elizabeth Symon



Joy is a New Set of Wheels

by Margaret Vanderzweerde

Today is Palm Sunday, 2001. Jake and I are in Jobat, guests of Dr. D. Tezlo, Medical Superintendent of the Jobat Christian Hospital.

We have been here for some time and are getting ready to move on again, but quite happy to be here during Lent. It is always "special" during Christmas and

Easter, for it is then that we really experience the depth of the spirituality of our brothers and sisters in Christ in India.

A special event took place this afternoon at the Zion Church in Jobat, something that we were hoping could happen before we leave.

It concerns the minister, Rev. Arthur Samuel, who was transferred here from Amkhut. It seemed to me that he has a lot of work on his plate, so I did an analysis of his work and travel. He has 10 congregations, anywhere from 19 to 55 km from Jobat and ministers to 1639 confessing members. He is over 65 years old and suffers from ill health.

What really "floored" me was that he had no wheels to get around. When he travels he must take a local bus, something which isn't ever on my list of "things to do," as the vehicles are nothing more than wrecks, overloaded, overcrowded, dirty and unreliable.

We really felt something needed to be done.

I remembered that in the late 1980s Rev. Murray Garvin (Board of World Mission) and Craig Taylor (who later served in Nepal) had visited the Bhil field.

They had found that the pastors covered great distances on foot or by bus. The Board eventually sent 10 motorcycles to the area, one of which had come to Jobat.

However, the motorcycle that had been here was sold when the minister retired and proceeds are with the Diocese of Bhopal. A new motorcycle would be extremely costly, but a plan hatched in my husband's mind.

Could we challenge the congregation and pastorate committee (the Session) with the promise to match the funds dollar for dollar? We could use funds designated for our work! Could we raise enough to buy a new one for the Church? Would the bishop agree to let us have the proceeds of the previous motorcycle?

A prayer session was called and the need brought before the Lord. Scripture was consulted and it was agreed that as Christ loves us we ought to love one another. He sacrificed for us; we should do the same for each other. What better time than during Lent to give up something in order to make life better for someone else?

When the pastorate committee was approached officially, they were all in favour and the "drive" began.

Within a few days we knew that all systems were "go" and I approached Bishop Maida, who agreed to give the 8,000 rupees the Diocesan treasurer was holding as proceeds of the old motor cycle.

With the help of the members of the pastorate committee the motorcycle was bought and delivered. Today, Palm Sunday, a wonderful ceremony of dedication, led by Rev. Samuel Tezlo, was held at the church.

Padre (Rev.) Arthur was absolutely glowing, very happy in the knowledge that the whole pastorate committee and his bishop had worked towards making this possible. Encouragement comes from the knowledge that you are valued, appreciated, cared for, and loved. God is good, grace abounds!

This is one Palm Sunday that will remain in my memory, always. Thanks be to God.

Program

Margaret Robertson
Program Secretary

Reporting from Council, Synodical or Presbyterial

It is sometimes difficult to know what information to report on. You want to share the highlights and the information that is most important to you.

But what *needs* to be reported on? First is important to pass on the business of the Society. Then you should pass on information and ideas that will be useful to the group that you are reporting to. Be brief. Remember, you don't need to report every detail. Your task is to make the report relevant and useful for your listeners.

Prepare your report to include these areas:

1. Business
- Report on the recommendations and their results and/or decisions made at the meeting.
- Note in your report if further work or decisions need to be made at the level to which you are reporting.
- Name any information that needs to go back.

2. Bible Study/Workshop(s)
- Name the theme, the leader(s) and the main resource(s) for the theme.
- What did you learn and how does it help you in your approach to WMS?

3. Worship/Singing
- Name the theme.
- What theme(s), pattern of worship or singing could you use in your synodical, presbyterial or local group?

4. Special Speaker(s)/Presentation(s)
- What did you learn about mission?
- What area(s) of mission or information will you share with your group?

You could end with a personal reflection such as how this event helped you grow in your faith and in the understanding of the mission of Jesus Christ?

Thanks also to Lynda Reid who worked on this with Margaret.

The Reason for Being

by Doris M. Johnston

"Hello Mister. Do you think your missus could spare a sandwich?" A ragged man came up the path to where Dad and I were chopping wood for the coming cold nights. (Well Dad was chopping, I was gathering up the chips and putting them in a basket. They were used to start the fire.)

I studied the man as he told us he hadn't eaten since yesterday's breakfast. He looked to be about the same age as my Dad, but a lot skinnier. His suit coat was pinned at the neck and he had a piece of rope tied around his middle because the coat had no buttons. This was 1929 and we were in the middle of the depression. Lots of people wore old clothes, but I'd never seen any as old as his.

Dad bent down to gather up an armload of kindling. "Sure, come on in."

I followed behind. The smell in the kitchen was mouth watering. Mum was cooking a roast, and a turnip was bubbling merrily on the stove.

"You're in luck tonight," Dad said. "We don't usually have a roast in the middle of the week."

"You are welcome to join us," Mum said with a smile.

We sat down and Mum asked the blessing. I peeked at the man. He had his eyes open looking at all the eatables. He reminded me of our dog before we fed him. I expected him to drool the way Tansy did.

The man ate and ate, and talked and talked. He had just come in from Toronto. No work there. He had hopped a freight and thinking he was just about in London because it had slowed down, jumped off. Ours was the first house he saw so he came on in.

Dad told him he had three and a half miles to go before he reached town.

"My, oh, my, and it looks like snow too. Hope my shoes hold out. Oh my. Looks like snow too."

The man who told us his name was Spud McGuire held up his foot. What sole was left on his shoe flapped miserably.

"I've an extra pair of shoes and a jacket if you will accept them." Dad got up to get the clothes.

"And I have rice pudding for dessert. Would you like some?"

Mum always made a big pudding because our cow gave plenty of milk, and I was sure glad she did. Spud must have eaten half of it and washed it down with three scalding cups of tea. I knew that after he left, Mum was going to have a "word with me" for staring, but I couldn't help it. Dad often teased my sisters and me about having hollow legs if we ate a lot, but this man must have been hollow from his neck down.

"Brought you a sweater and some socks, and I think this jacket will fit." Dad said, holding them out.

Then I noticed that the man wasn't wearing socks; his feet were dirty and cut.

"Don't know what size you wear. These are size nine, bit small for me." And dad handed over his Sunday shoes.

I'd never heard Dad complain about

his shoes being too tight, but before I could say anything the man had them on.

"Great, great." He cried reaching for the sweater and coat. "Oh my, they fit fine. I'd hate going to my cousin's in my old rags."

While he buttoned his coat, Mum went down to the fruit cellar and came up with a bowl of apples. "Perhaps you could share these with your cousin."

Spud's face lit up. "Oh my, oh my."

"Oh my, oh my," sister Lou whispered behind her hand.

Dad went to the door to say good-night to him. Only then did the man speak to us children. "Good-night kids. Thanks for the lunch missus." He was gone.

"Well if that was lunch I'm glad I didn't ask him to dinner." Dad laughed as he pulled the old rug against the door to keep the cold draft out. But I knew he was pleased that he was able to help someone. "That's what we are here for," was his favourite expression.

Bible Quiz by Eve Stickland

Multiple choice - Pick one of four in each of these questions.

1. What colour was the robe Jesus wore when Roman Soldiers taunted Him?
    - a. Scarlet or purple
    - b. Red
    - c. White
    - d. Brown

Answer: Matthew 27:28-29; Mark 15: 17, 18; John 19:2,3

2. Judas betrayed Jesus to an armed crowd by:
    - a. Greeting Him
    - b. Kissing Him
    - c. Striking Him
    - d.Handing Him a gift of bread and honey

Answer: Matthew 26: 48, 49; Mark 14: 44-46; Luke 22: 47,48

3. What did the priests do to Jesus at His first trail?
    - a. Accused Him of blasphemy
    - b. Struck Him with their fists and slapped Him.
    - c. Tore His clothes
    - d. Spat in His face

Answer: Matthew 26:65,67; Mark 14: 64-67

4. After Jesus announced to His disciples that one of them would betray Him, He dipped a piece of bread in a dish and handed it to Judas Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread he,
    - a. Asked for more
    - b. Wept and asked for forgiveness
    - c. Denied the accusation
    - d. Got up and left immediately

Answer: John 13: 26-30

5. When the three women arrived at the tomb, they were surprised. They found the stone rolled away. Jesus was not there. a. Who did they see? b. What did they say?

Answer: a. Luke 24: 4; b. Luke 24: 5,6

Millennium Quilt Exhibit 2002

Apr 26-May 6 - St.Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St. Lambert, Quebec
May 13-27 - Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Schomberg, Ontario
June 5-19 - First Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay, Ontario
June 26-July 3 - Forbes Presbyterian Church, Grande Prairie, Alberta

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MINUTE FOR JUSTICE

Guatemala in Transition

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Corinthians 5: 17-18

The ministry of reconciliation is our mandate. As Christians we are bound to do what ever we can, so that peace may abound and justice flow like a river.

The 36-year civil war in Guatemala ended in 1996 with the signing of the Accord for a Firm and Lasting Peace. However, the Accord was not the end of violence and hatred in that country and little has changed for the Guatemalan people.

The peace process requires an integration of all the groups and sectors of society, which were affected by the violence. This is very difficult to achieve in a country of such diverse people - the oppressors and the oppressed, the educated and the uneducated, the rural and the urban dwellers, the rich and the poor. Moreover, this country has 24 indigenous language groups,

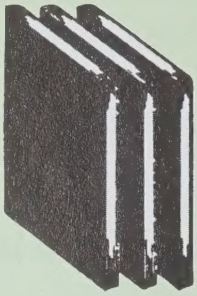
So far, little progress has been made. By the end of the year 2000, international observers in Guatemala not only questioned the political will of the country to proceed on the journey of peace; they wondered if a serious intent to take the road to peace had been present at all.

The signing of the Accord for Peace was celebrated as the beginning of the peace process, yet peace has not come to this country and many of its people continue to live in fear and poverty.

Pray that Guatemala sees the need for a firm commitment to complete its journey to justice and peace for all its people.

This **Minute for Justice** is based on *Seeking Shalom in Times of Transition* the report of the International Affairs Committee to the 127th General Assembly, June 2001. The full report is found in Acts & Proceedings 2001.

Minute for Justice may be read as a Minute for Mission, or printed as a bulletin insert or newsletter article to inform members of the international concerns of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and ask for their prayerful consideration of these matters. The text was written by Dineke Kraay, member of the International Affairs Committee as representative of the Women's Missionary Society.



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UnHoly Orders: Abuse of Power that Tempts Us All by Janet A. Booker. FreedomLine Enterprises, St. Catharines, ON. 1996.

UnHoly Orders is an impressive volume of almost 200 pages, 81/2 x11 format, coil bound. It reflects the author's passion for the subject in its comprehensive coverage of a topic that many people find uncomfortable to deal with.

Step by step, page by page Booker (now Wiebe) takes the reader through identifying the problem to resources for recovery. She is as thorough in her description of what constitutes abuse as she is ruthless in her encouragement to individuals and congregations to find solutions.

Scripture, prayer and extensive resources provide some balance to the difficult subject matter that groups are invited to study.

There isn't room in a review of this size to do justice to Janet Booker's book. Read her article on pages 8 to 11 in this issue. If this is a subject you or your group would like to tackle, or if it is an issue within your congregation, this book is for you. It can be obtained most directly through FreedomLine Enterprises, 25 Tasker St., St Catherines, ON L2R 3Z9. Phone 905-684-8226 FAX 905-685-4029; e-mail:jwiebe@home.com www.freedomlineenterprises.org, or at a slightly higher cost through The Book Room.

L. June Stevenson

Shadow of the Past by Maria Stam. Erkens Publishing, London, Ontario.

Maria Stam is well known to Glad Tidings readers through her many articles and poems. She has been published in a variety of religious periodicals in Canada.

Maria also has several books to her credit: a novel, *Crossing the Bridge*, 1992; a children's book, *Hans;* a book of poetry, *Wandering Between Two Worlds*; and a collection of short stories, *When the Time is Right and Other Stories.*

Shadow of the Past tells the story of a German Jew who reluctantly revisits his homeland. He is surprised by the openness and friendliness of the people he encounters, especially those who worked against the Nazi regime. He is driven in his search for information about his adopted daughter, Antje.

Maria's book was inspired by a true story involving Anne Frank's father, Otto Frank, who survived the Holocaust and moved to the United States. Frank visited the uncle of a little girl who was placed in an orphanage in the Netherlands.

An engaging book especially for those interested in how history unfolds. Contact The Book Room for information on this and other books by Maria Stam.

L. June Stevenson

Morning by Morning. Daily Devotional Meditations for One Year, from the writings of Marva J. Dawn. Edited by Karen Dismer.

Morning by Morning is a beautiful book, both inside and out with easy-to-read print. I found it insightful and nurturing.

Marva Dawn has written many best selling devotional and theological books. At present she is a teaching fellow at Regent College, Vancouver, BC.

Karen Dismer, friend, admirer and former student of Ms. Dawn has selected readings from these books. I liked the continuing theme and pattern throughout. For instance, Wednesday's focus on the Psalms and Marva's book "I'm Lonely Lord, How Long?" recognizes that we all have fears of being alone.

Saturday, we are mentally prepared to anticipate Sunday worship and rest, From "Keeping the Sabbath Wholly". Sunday meditations reflect on the meaning of worship. I especially liked Marva's statement, "Worship is the language of love and growth between believers and God."

Another bonus of this book is that it can be used any time. It is not dated.

Reviewed by Marjorie Wincott

Forward in Faith

This column is being written on the second day of the new year, 2002. Although our books do not close until the middle of this month, to allow all donations for 2001 to reach our office, receipts from Presbyterials amounted to $778,982 (up from $775,235 in 2000) at the end of December.

I thought how suitable the title of this column is. As we go forward into a new year, particularly in light of the happenings of September 11, we cannot help but wonder what the year 2002 will hold in store. As Christians we go forward with confidence - in faith - assured by the words of Psalm 91:5-9, "You shall not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flies by day…Because you have made the Lord, even the most High, your habitation."

As members of the Women's Missionary Society, we also go forward in the faith that the members of our Society will provide the funds necessary for us to share in the mission outreach of our Church in Canada and overseas, and in supporting staff who provide leadership training for work with women's, youth and children's groups through congregations in Canada.

As Christian women, charged with the task of proclaiming the love of God for all humankind in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to sacrifice His life for our sins, we realize the tremendous need for the proclamation of that love in our world today. May God richly bless you as you seek to witness to His love throughout this year 2002.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

AFTER EASTER - WORD SEARCH

by Jim Phillips

N	L	A	M	B	S	T	J	B
H	A	A	O	P	E	T	E	R
O	F	T	O	N	A	S	S	C
J	R	E	H	C	U	B	U	T
D	Z	E	T	A	R	A	S	E
A	C	E	H	V	N	A	K	N
Q	T	D	O	M	F	E	H	J
H	I	E	M	K	O	L	E	C
C	B	B	A	D	L	P	P	L
A	E	E	S	E	L	I	E	O
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B	I	P	W	F	W	S	H	E
T	A	O	B	X	M	I	S	L
H	S	I	F	H	E	D	I	Y

BEACH
BOAT
BREAKFAST
COAL
DISCIPLE
FEED
FISH
FOLLOW ME
JESUS
JOHN
LAMBS
LOVE
NET
PETER
SEA
SHEEP
THOMAS
TIBERIAS
ZEBEDEE

MISSION IN ACTION

Note: Prayer concerns are higlighted in bold and italics

Scharwz
Nepal

November 27, 2001 - Well, well, Christmas approaching already. Here the lights were up in the stores, banners stretched across the street, everyone in a festive mood… But this was for Depawali, a big Hindu festival that just finished. Down come the lights now.

This year has been a record for us as a couple for time apart, between camps, meetings and holidays. That has now finished thankfully until at least next March. In spite of this we have had some good family holidays, although we have been reminded that when you pick a leprosy hospital as your vacation spot there must be something wrong. Most recently we went to the Mount Everest region for 17 days of trekking. We were very warmly received as they get very few kids up there. Ling, Daniel and Christina stopped at 15,500 ft while Jon and I went on to Kala Pattar (5,500 m, 18,000 ft) for a great view of Everest. The kids did just fine, and Ling survived. I was then joined by a friend and we climbed several more peaks, the biggest being Imja Tse at 6,200 m (20,400 ft). It was a great experience but I sure missed the family.

Politically things have been very quiet since the summer, even promising. The Maoists are in negotiation with the government and there has been a cease-fire throughout this time. People feel less fearful and more hopeful. Some of us wonder if it is the calm before the storm.

Work continues to progress. We had one cleft lip and palate reconstructive camp in September in Arghakanchi, a scary 11-hour journey from here. Divine intervention kept the electricity going and we had our busiest camp yet with 45 operations in five days. We just saw several of them in follow-up this week and they look great. I had to cancel two other camps due to a lack of anaesthetists. ***Please pray for this need.*** I think we are sorted out for this spring's program. I was able to train a fine Nepali surgeon in basic leprosy surgery in Lalgard, which will decrease my need to travel there. I had one research paper published this year, two on the way and a few in the works.

We have a new medical superintendent at the government hospital that has been doing an excellent job of sorting out many of the problems at the hospital in an upright way. Things at the reconstructive/leprosy hospital are going well also, with many disabled people being helped towards living useful lives. Tek Raj, whom I mentioned in my last letter, is now home, walking for the first time in his 17 years. It is great to see lives changed inside and out. Ongoing financial support for the leprosy side (coming from Germany) is still a question, but this year is taken care of. We still need more sponsors for the rehabilitative patients though.

There has been a real sense of joy and victory at our church for some time now. In spite of the news of world events deteriorating, the Good News of God has not changed. Each service is a tremendous celebration, and last week the praise and worship went on so spontaneously the sermon was cancelled! There has been a revival among the youth as well resulting in a deeper relationship with the Lord and renewed interest in the Word.

The effects go out into the community as well. A fruit-seller's son was previously the scourge of the area, cheating people, rude, to the point his mother would heave rocks at him (not found in any of Dobson's books). He began attending church, came to belief, and what a radical change in his life! When he started attending baptism classes his parents were very opposed and eventually the church had to tell him to wait until he was of the age of majority. It is interesting that in spite of such a positive change, his own parents would oppose the cause of such change!

A few hours later… We had wondered if this time of peace was quiet before the storm. How prophetic. Last night hundreds of Maoist cadres attacked in ten or so districts, including one an hour from here, destroying police posts, looting banks etc. Twenty-three police and army personnel were killed. The fighting continues. One attack occurred right beside an INF Leprosy clinic in Ghorahi where an INF team was conducting a women's camp. They were conscripted into looking after about 50 wounded, including several bystanders and children wounded by a stray grenade. This is a very disappointing but not surprising outcome. In spite of this, the church service today was one of somber victory, that God's rule would bring peace in this land and that Satan's kingdom would not gain any ground in this land.

Overseas Staff Birthdays

May

5 - Yasmani Samuel Villalonga, Nicaragua
11 - Lillian Sparling, Malawi
19 - Luke Inglis, Malawi
26 - Pauline Brown, India

June

1 - Louise Gamble, Taiwan
10 - Joy Randall, Taiwan
15 - Wendy Lessard-Clouston, Japan
22 - Rebecca Leona Onuoha, Nigeria
23 - Nathanael Taylor Allison, Cameroon
25 - Christopher Jorna, Guyana

And yet later… There has been more heavy fighting in other parts of the country with loss of over 270 lives. A state of emergency has now been declared. Yesterday a bomb was found on the INF mission compound here and was removed by the army. Nobody has claimed responsibility. The boys didn't think it unusual to have to stop class because of a bomb. They just remembered to tell us today. I wonder what Afghan kids think is normal?

The events of September 11 have affected us here as well. It was a shock to all of us of course, and we feel for those who lost loved ones in the tragedy. Of course it is also sad to see the same story of refugees fleeing from bombs in Afghanistan. We feel for our friends who had to evacuate from there, and those who must bear the suffering for others' misdeeds. We pray that from all this, justice, peace and the kingdom of righteousness will reign the stronger in our world.

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things." We do indeed have great news for a troubled world. A son of a king, come to earth to bring his father's kingdom of peace and light into people's hearts. Let us all be points of light and peace wherever God has called us to.

I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in Him. Then you will have more and more hope, and it will flow out of you by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

In His Grace,
Richard and Ling

Randall
Taiwan

Christmas Blessings! December 2001 - May our hearts be filled with peace, love and joy at this Christmas. May Jesus' birth and God's message of love be shown to others so it will overcome fear and terrorism in our world.

I am thankful for the many blessings and appreciate your support and prayers over the year, for the call to share the Good News in Taiwan and especially in Changhua and Erhlin areas, for God's guidance, direction and strength and for the prayers of many.

I am thankful also for good health and strength to carry on with my responsibilities. ***Please pray I will be able to meet all the challenges in our Hospital and Nursing Department.***

Elections in Taiwan on December 1st are very important for the future of peace and co-operation among the parties and the government of Taiwan and for better relationships with the President. ***Pray for our country and its future.***

The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan has a new 21st Century New Taiwan Mission Project - "to actualize the Kingdom of God through building Koinonia." Our PCT Missionary Retreat in November had the theme Mission - Being Agents for Actualizing the Kingdom of God. We have fewer missionaries now but it was a meaningful time for retreat, renewal and fellowship.

In March and June (2001) the Presbyterian Church and Tam Kang Middle School, celebrated MacKay's arrival in Taiwan and one hundred years since his death. They passed the torch around the northern presbyteries and encouraged people to carry the light today. ***Pray the torch will go forth to all the people in all of Taiwan!***

Since then Jamie Sutherland, one of our former Canadian missionaries in Taiwan, has died and the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan General Assembly will have a Memorial Service for him on Dec 11th. All his children will be here and our Canadian family - the Geddes, Louise Gamble and myself will be present to share in that day.

Our Dr. Jean Landborough Memorial Hospice Ward opened in March and has 23 beds but usually has 15 patients. We still encourage patients to accept our Home Care Programme with support staff to help them and their families. We just had this accreditation in November and are awaiting the results. **Pray for this special ministry in palliative care.**

Pray for all our staff that they may be committed and dedicated to the mission of our hospital and our nursing care.

Eng-hok Church is looking for a new minister so we are praying for wisdom in this. Our aboriginal church is to be dedicated on Dec 8th and many members will go. **Pray this is a special time of renewal and commitment for both our churches.**

Love and Joy,
Joy M. Randall

Johnston
Romania

Ontario Choir Tour of Hungarian Male Choir from Romania

August- September, 2001 - During the past five years the Presbyterian Church in Canada has become extremely involved in various activities involved in their partnership with the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania. What a great way it was to celebrate our relatively new connection by having the male choir tour Ontario, performing in numerous Presbyterian congregations.

This tour was made possible through the sponsorship of International Ministries and through the hard work and excellent planning by Barbara Nawratil who coordinated all events which took place.

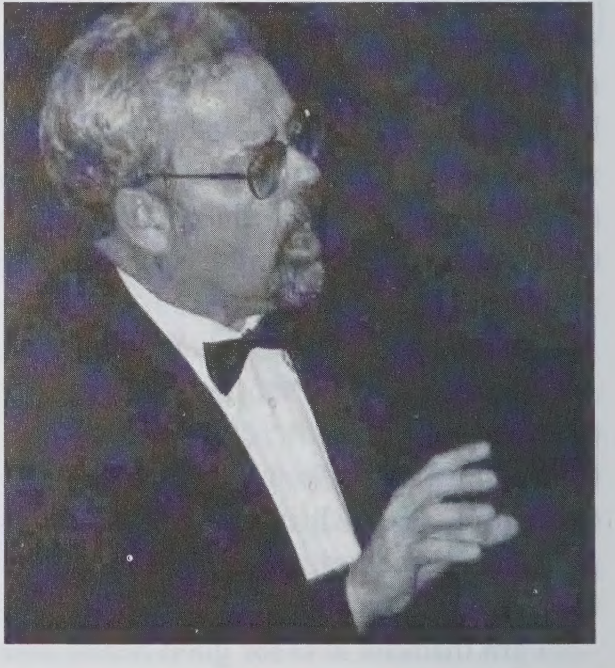
In preparing for the tour from the Romanian side we had to establish a time period that would be suitable for all students, fitting into their rigid examination schedule. The two bishops involved gave permission for the graduating students to start their employment a little later than usual. Visas had to be obtained through the Canadian Embassy in Budapest.

Knox Church, Waterloo was our host church for the tour and were very supportive in our total planning. We went there directly from the airport and were hosted at a wonderful potluck supper on August 25th.

On Sunday August 26th we sang at both St. Andrew's, Kitchener and Knox, Goderich.

As part of the tour we had two full days at Glen Mhor Camp. The staff organized super activities for us and Rev. Alan Stewart of Westview Church in Toronto facilitated two most worthwhile workshops.

We continued the week performing in St. Andrew's, Owen Sound and First Church, Collingwood. Catherine Brown,



Brian conducting Hungarian Male Choir with three choir members on next page.

musical director of First, lined up a fantastic program including a visit to St. Marie Among the Hurons.

On September 2nd we travelled to Toronto to perform at Beaches Church and Knox, Spadina. On Monday (Labour day) the choir had a fun day hosted by the youth group of First Hungarian, Toronto including a visit to the CN Tower.

From this point on, our singing engagements became more packed. Knox, Listowel; Knox, Guelph; Knox, Walkerton; New St. James, London; Knox, Leamington; Paulin Memorial and St. Andrew's in Windsor.

On Sept. 10th we travelled to Welland with a lunch stop at Delhi which has a Hungarian congregation.

During our visit to Niagara Falls on September 11th, we were informed of the tragic events of the day and that night we performed at Knox, St. Catharines.

On Sept. 12th we participated in the noon hour service at Knox, College and were able to meet many of the students. We also sang at St. Andrew's, Scarborough, a service at the church offices, St. Andrew's, Lindsay and St. Andrew's, Ottawa taking time to experience something of our capital.

Nearing the end of our time in Canada we sang in both morning services at Knox, Waterloo (Sept.16th) and at Central, Cambridge and Knox, Elora. During our concert at Central, Cambridge we took time to make a presentation to honour our wonderful bus driver, Sandra Goodwin, who is also an active member at Central. The young gentlemen really appreciated her dedication and enthusiasm. She was really "in tune" with our mission project and has continued to keep contact with the choir members through email.

Rev. Linda Ashfield preached at Knox, Waterloo, the first Sunday following the tragic events of September 11th and in closing her sermon stated, "In times like these we often look to our poets and musicians in dealing with such overwhelming tragedy. Thank you for being here."

Even on our last day we had an important event. We performed in a noon hour concert at Wilfred Laurier University from where I had graduated in 1973. This was our only concert which didn't take place in a church setting and was an ideal opportunity to sing our story of Christian witness. This concert was recorded and there will be a chance to purchase our CD in the near future.

A special thanks must go to all Canadians who opened their hearts and homes to these young ambassadors of Christ. It was a true time of meaningful interaction. In each service or concert, apart from other duties, at least one of the gentlemen offered a personal testimony.

Many of the students have continued to keep personal contact with numerous

Canadians. We still have so much to learn from each other in our common faith journey but we all feel how beneficial this tour has been in our future relations to which we look forward with God's continuing blessings.

Brian Johnston,
Romania

AIRMAIL

**Stright
Guyana**

Ken Stright took up a mission appointment last fall in Guyana. Ken was minister of St. Andrew's, Pictou, Nova Scotia for over 15 years. During that time he traveled to South America and Africa on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. He has been invited to engage in an interim ministry for five to eight months. His ministry is to work in Burns Presbyterian Church in the capital city Georgetown. Ken also goes to the East Demerara Pastoral Charge consisting of Ogle, Triumph and Betterhope. He is the supervising minister for three more congregation of the Mahaica Parish (Helena, DeHoop and Clonbrook).

Ken's first "letter" published here is a touching true story of one of his adventures.

Just Another Speedboat Ride

It was just another speedboat ride, like dozens of others…

Just three minutes from the Stelling (boat launch) in Vreed en Hoop to the Market in Georgetown.

Most people close their eyes and silently pray they don't drown in the murky waters... A few close their eyes to rest…

Most are apprehensive, afraid of the water and the speed. I love it all!

A wave washes over the gunnels and the woman beside me gets wet. People don't talk much on the speedboats so she is taken aback when I said, "I'm sorry your clothes got wet. Can I help?"

Silently she wonders, "Who is this strange white man who speaks to me?

"I'm Muslim, a woman, a stranger and he shouldn't say a word, but he does."

She wants to ask, 'who are you?' but it is safer to ask, 'Why are you in Guyana?'"

So I answer both and she looks at me, "A Reverend?" (He's a Christian Reverend. I always wanted to meet a Christian Reverend!)

She copies down her address. She says it was nice to meet a Christian Reverend.

She disappears in the crowd - gone forever. But no... Her address makes possible a Christmas card.

And then her letter comes in response to a simple card with a heart-felt message enclosed. And her heart and soul pour out:

Dear Reverend Kenneth:

I do hope my few lines find you in good health and happiness by God's grace.

Well Reverend, I don't know if you remember, I am the girl you met in the speedboat. And I gave you my address. I always wanted to meet a Reverend and I am so glad I am writing to one. Thank you for the Christmas card!

Well, my parents are Muslim and I love the Christian religion so much. I am willing to give my life to Jesus. I am so happy I can tell you.

Reverend, if I find the man that would love me for me, I will be happy. My parents don't want me to change my religion now. I am hoping and praying every day for God to send that special Christian young man for me. In that way I can get a chance to change my religion... I was brought up in a very decent home with lots of good understanding. I know a marriage is not accomplished in the few minutes of a marriage ceremony. It is a lifetime - of joy.

I would like you to please pray for me.

Well, Reverend Kenneth I would like you to please send me any booklets or any reading materials you have on Jesus.

Please pray for me and my family… I would like to see you some other time before you leave Guyana. Please tell me which part of Canada you are from. Take care.

This is all for now until I hear from you.

Your new sister,
Shafia

P.S. May God continue to give you the health and strength to spread the good news about Jesus - thank you for that!

So now, sisters and brothers in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, how do you respond to such a letter and such a cry for help from a young woman who wants to begin a new life, with a new faith and a hope that God has blessings to offer her in this life?

I realize that my answer is more immediate than yours for I now have a letter to write and it needs to express many things in very sensitive language. But I wonder how many of you have a Shafia in your neighbourhood, getting on a bus, crowding into a subway train, riding an elevator, or someone you walk by every day of your life? Maybe they have a secret wish to meet a Reverend, or maybe they just want to meet someone who expresses love for Jesus Christ.

I wonder what our response as Presbyterian is to people who say, "I am willing to give my life to Jesus. I am so happy I can tell you."

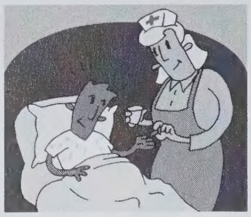
I hope I know the answer because I am leaving for the Stelling to take just another speedboat ride. What would you say?

Ken Stright, above, shares his 50th birthday party with a Guyanese friend.

Deep in the snow

Walking in white
A dusting of snow
My footsteps
Carve out even footprints
In the snow
Behind mine
Come smaller ones
Uneven
Zig zags
Hope
Small snowplows
Wading deeper
Pausing now
A run
A jump
Landing deep in the snow.

Maureen Kowal



Can we share another person's experiences?

What happens when our emotions are caught up in how they or we were feeling at the time?

This is what the nurse reveals in her book of fifty anecdotes, "From the other side of the Bed."

She discovers that the meaning of certain words isn't the same as they were in her former homeland. This leads to an unforeseen reaction from an elderly male patient.

She discovers that there is another side to a physician when he finds that his practice is sometimes limited by the scope of the patient's problem.

When a man learns that bad things can happen with just one fleeting lapse of restraint, his response is a reminder that no amount of guilt can erase our actions.

She shares her experiences when she worked in the emergency room and had to help a woman whose son was dying, and how this encounter was so difficult for her as a care-giver and a mother.

When a young man learns that he has a terminal disease, he finds his own unique way of coping. The ability to laugh over simple incidents, as a chair with strange qualities, lightens the stress that nursing professionals regularly work with. These glimpses into the life of a nurse and some of her patients, and co-workers, gives a peek into the health care professional that's not often seen.

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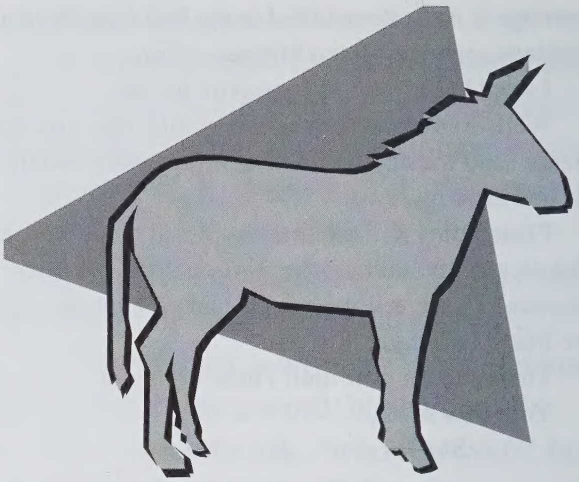


Hosanna!

Come! Join the celebration
as happy voices ring.
Hosanna! Glad Hosannas to
Jesus Christ our King.
People cast their garments,
waving branches made of palm
On a colt, Messiah weeping
for a lost Jerusalem.

Come! See the trial in session
as the angry voices cry.
Pilate tries to strike a bargain
the mob yells, Crucify!
On a cross outside the city,
the King becomes a Lamb.
Separated from His Father
dying for the sins of man.

Come! And touch the grave clothes
in wonderment and fear.
An angel stands proclaiming
Behold! He is not here.
Remember how He told you
that he would rise again.
Defeating death and darkness
eternal life to bring.

Jolene Eby

"I"-Witness

I couldn't believe it. We had to move again! My girlfriend and I, both on disability pension, had rented this apartment only a year ago. As our one year anniversary there approached we got a $93 rent increase. The hunt began. Although there were several apartments for rent, none would allow my cat.

In desperation we saw a real estate agent recommended by a friend. We really didn't think we would be able to buy anything. It turned out we could, just barely, manage to buy a condo. I could take my cat there.

Still there were the "other" expenses to be dealt with - a mover, hook-up costs, insurance...

I prayed, "Lord I know you are doing what is right and good for me so please remove the fear and stress that fill me. I can't seem to shake it."

Several years ago I had decided to support just one charity. I had chosen CBMI. A couple of days after my prayer the phone rang. It was a representative from CBMI. He couldn't pass through town without calling. No one had ever contacted me personally from there before. I believed it was a very direct answer from God. I felt better and had a sense of peace right away.

That Sunday my minister had a message in our bulletin saying I was moving and anyone with a strong back and a giving heart should come to my place on Tuesday. They came, and they moved us in two trips allowing us to cancel our mover.

Within a week I had an envelope from CBMI. I thought, oh no, they'll be wanting money and I don't have any right now. I didn't open the envelope until the next day. How surprised I was to find it wasn't a request for money but a card saying, "We prayed for you today." A week later I had another card from them saying, "We understand you were worried about your move, so we prayed for you today."

When the first mortgage payment had been taken out of my bank account it was $13 less than I expected. I phoned the mortgage company afraid they had made a mistake only to be told there had been an interest drop and they had given it to us.

We love our condo. We have really nice neighbours and are really happy here. My cat really likes it here too.

What I have always known and believed is so true. God is alive and well. He is watching over us and he does still answer prayers.

This is my testimony and I hope, with all my heart, it will help someone out there that maybe has doubts or fears.

Marlene Lane
Penticton, BC

NEWS

Anglicans Celebrate Women in Ministry

Vancouver, 4 December (ENI) - by Ferdy Baglo. Since 1976, when the first women were ordained as priests in the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC), more than 500 have entered the priesthood. Today 16 per cent of the church's active clergy - or 344 priests - are women.

The Anglican Communion was first invited to consider admitting women to the priesthood at the Lambeth Conference in 1968. In the early 1970s, an ACC task force on women's ordination issued a positive report, and on 30 November 1976, the first six women were ordained, in four dioceses, from Ontario in the east to British Columbia in the west.

But the ordinations provoked controversy. A dissenting manifesto was circulated and protest services were held even as the women were being ordained.

While the dominant liberal segment of the ACC largely favoured women's ordination, two other theological streams objected. Evangelicals pointed to places in Paul's epistles where women are told to be silent and not take leadership over men. Anglo-Catholics argued that the role of the priest was to serve in the image of Christ, so the priest had to be male.

The ACC was not the first church in the Anglican Communion to ordain women. During the Second World War, in 1944, a woman in Hong Kong was ordained to the priesthood, but this action was condemned so that it wasn't until 1971 that the first officially authorized ordination of women to the priesthood took place in Hong Kong, followed by Canada in 1976 and New Zealand and the United States the following year.

"The reason women are being called by God into new roles in the church is that, not just the church, but the whole civilization in our western context is on the cusp of a radical watershed," said Rev. Wendy Fletcher Marsh, academic dean and professor of church history at Vancouver School of Theology and author of two books on women's ordination.

Canada's first female cathedral dean, Susan Charbonneau of Saskatoon, was appointed just this year. Several women serve as archdeacons.

It was also 25 years ago that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) started ordaining women. Today women account for 105 of the church's 865 clergy. The ACC and ELCIC recently signed a declaration recognizing each other's clergy and permitting transfer of members and ministers between the two churches.

Canadian Church Leaders Challenge Terrorism Response

A letter sent to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of Defence, from the Canadian Council of Churches, said the image of nations being in a "war against terrorism" isn't helpful. Though accountability and prevention are essential, leaders said, the main focus should be on building world peace.

"The heightened solidarity with the United States that is being expressed worldwide in the aftermath of the horrific events of September 11 is potentially a powerful factor in a new dynamic that could, if respectfully nurtured, enhance world peace," the letter suggested.

The letter was signed by the President and General Secretary of the Council, by the chair of its Commission on Justice and Peace, and by the director of an internationally respected centre for peace and conflict studies, Project Ploughshares.

They urged that Canada's actions "be guided by a spirit of wisdom and perseverance, by our values and our way of life."

Voices of Women Urge Restraint

Women in every world region responded to the events of September 11 by sending messages to the International Women's Tribune Centre, based in the United Nations building in New York. Most commented on the need for immediate and long-term solutions in an unequal world capable of producing such violent acts of rage. And they all reflected the growing determination of women to be part of the decision-making processes that will shape next steps.

From Afghanistan, one woman said, "we sincerely hope that [America] can differentiate between the people of Afghanistan and a handful of fundamentalist terrorists."

Janet Hull from Dili, East Timor, though expressing sympathy, mentioned that the Timorese never called for Jakarta to be bombed when their whole country was destroyed [by Indonesian forces] two years ago...the US President could learn from them."

"We must not allow the atmosphere of hatred to justify acts of war against unidentified enemies," said Cora Weiss, The Hague Appeal for Peace. "We cherish the force of law, not the law of force."

"How does it increase our security to bomb countries into the Stone Age?" asked Alexa McDonough, leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada.

Again and again these responses urged restraint on the part of American politicians, and reiterated that violence and military force an never bring peace.

WCC Greets Muslim Churches

At the beginning of Ramadan, the Muslim holy season, and the forthcoming Christian season of Advent, the general secretary of the World Council of Churches sent a letter to the heads of Muslim religious communities throughout the world. Rev. Dr. Konrad Raiser evoked the spiritual bonds uniting Christians and Muslims that need to be rediscovered in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedies. He called for genuine cooperation and joint efforts to assist victims, to defend human rights and humanitarian law and for "intensification of dialogue between religions and cultures."

Raiser wrote, "As Christians, we reject the tendency, not uncommon in many Western countries, to perceive Muslims as a threat and to portray Islam in negative terms while projecting a positive self-image."

A copy of the letter was sent to WCC member churches as well as to other ecumenical and confessional bodies. In an accompanying note, Raiser says the "message is intended as an expression of our solidarity with the Muslim community in these trying times, and of our commitment to the spirit of dialogue and mutual trust which has developed over these last decades."

Israelis Halt Work on Nazareth Mosque

Jerusalem, 11 January (ENI) - by Ross Dunn. Muslim groups have warned they will challenge the Israeli government's decision to halt construction of a mosque next to a major Christian holy site in Nazareth.

The Israeli security cabinet, apparently responding to pressure from the Vatican and other Christian bodies, announced Wednesday it was stopping the erection of a mosque near the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

The basilica is built on the site where tradition holds that the Angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary she would give birth to Jesus.

Building work on the mosque began several weeks ago, in defiance of a court ruling. Previous Israeli governments had supported the project.

Some Christian groups had found the proximity of the proposed mosque to the basilica provocative. The mosque is intended to mark the resting-place of Shehab el-Din, a nephew of Saladin, the 12th-century Muslim hero who defeated the Christian crusaders at Jerusalem.

Nazareth, today a predominantly Muslim town, is the place where the Bible recounts that Jesus spent his youth.

The deputy mayor of Nazareth, Salman Abu Ahmed, who is a prominent advocate of the project, accused the Israeli government of the "miserable persecution of Muslims".

Members of the Waqf, the Islamic Trust which is responsible for the mosque project, branded the decision a "persecution of Muslims and Arabs in Israel" and vowed to continue their "holy struggle."

Spring

Air,
like a silken feather,
gently strokes my skin;
almost moist,
laden with the scent of
budding blossoms,
drenches me with its perfume.
A robin's song swells
across the newly green landscape.
I am ten years old again -
Sitting,
knobby, scratched knees tucked
under my chin,
arms hugged tightly around them.
A sand coloured sparrow
dips his tiny beak
into the stone bird-bath.
I watch enthralled.
So many years,
So many springs,
Yet still, the wonder stays the same.

Patricia Schneider

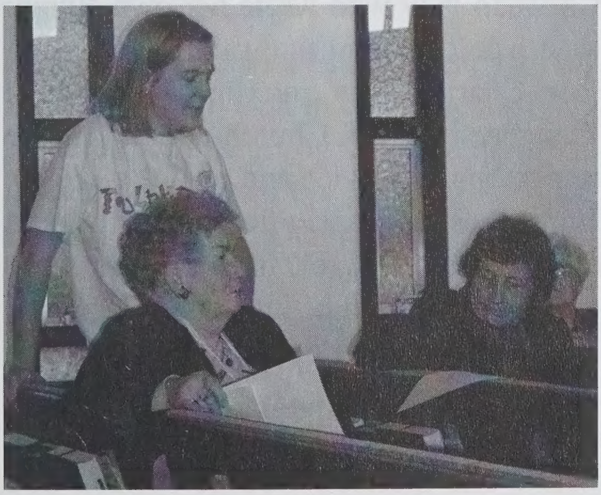
In the Society

Synodical

British Columbia Synodical held its Semi-Annual Meeting at Knox, Port Alberni, October 19, 2001. Guest speaker was June Stevenson, Glad Tidings editor, who spoke in the morning on "Reflections Along the Way." In the afternoon she spoke on the strengths of the church, the importance of PWS&D, and of mission exposure.

A highlight of the day was the second WMS/Youth Forum (see photo below), handled very successfully by the newly appointed Education person, Kathy Ball. We were divided into small groups with at least one person from each organization to discuss various topics such as "the biggest challenge facing the church is…?"

The next day we joined Synod for discussions on the new accountability groups, and for two excellent presentations by Elaine Meyers on contemporary music and worship. With Elaine were her brother and two other musicians from Whitworth College and Church in Washington State. The group delighted us with in an entire concert in the evening.



A Service of Recognition was held for Rev. Wayne Menard, Regional Staff worker for Alberta & the Northwest. Above left to right: Marg Befus, Synodical President, Rev. Marion Barclay, Moderator, Calgary Macleod Presbytery; Wayne Menard; Priscilla Towers, President, Calgary Macleod Presbyterial; Lisbeth Duncan, Moderator, Synod of Alberta.

Presbyterial

The Christmas Meeting of **Edmonton-Peace River** Presbyterial was held at Westmount Church, Edmonton, on December 6, 2001.

President Millie Freeman, read a poem entitled "Story of the Christmas Guest," following the opening hymn. The President of the Westmount Group, Irene Colquhoun, led devotions, emphasizing the holiness of God and the helplessness of those who do not believe, all in view of the September 11 disaster in the USA.

Refreshments were served by the Westmount Group, followed by business.

Sheilah Omah-Maharagh gave a short talk on her recent visit to Trinidad. Edna Murray read greetings from the Moderator, Dr. Joe Reed.

Local

Certificates of Recognition were presented at Woodville's Presbyterian Women's Christmas dinner meeting in **Woodville, Ontario** to Eunice Jewell and Janet Thomas.

St. Andrew's WMS, Carleton Place, Ontario is very proud of their WMS Life Member, Mary Stevens. Mary has attended St. Andrew's since the age of 11. She organized a quilters' guild and for many years was very active. Many in the quilters' group today began with Mary.

She was also was president of Circle #1 for 27 years.

The picture above, taken on her 100th birthday shows Mary with her daughter-in-law Mabel Stevens and the minister of St. Andrew's, Rev. Hugh Jack.

Dorothy Neal Named in Mayor's Honour List

Dorothy Neal, long time WMS member, was recently named in the Mayor's honour list for the City of Sarnia for 2001. Dorothy has a very busy schedule of activities in her congregation of Laurel Lea St. Matthews, and the WMS group. She is still very active in both Presbyterial and Synodical. Dorothy was Vice-President on Council Executive in 1980.

Since moving to Sarnia more than 40 years ago, Dorothy has been a regular volunteer at the Inn of the Good Shepherd soup kitchen, a member of the Humane Society, the Eastern Star Lodge and the Women's Institute.

Dorothy is a registered nurse. She worked at St. Joseph's Hospital and volunteered for many years as a camp nurse.

She has travelled extensively and often shares her experiences with local groups.

Dorothy, pictured above, is truly, as her name says, "a gift from God".

Thanks to Fleur Eenkhoorn and The Observer, Sarnia, Monday, December 31, 2001 for information.

Hazel Geraldine Milson of Edmonton, AB, passed away September 23, 2001, at the age of 80 years. She was a unique, Christian lady who wrote her own eulogy so it would be said the way it really was! Rev. Charles Scott, interim Moderator at First Presbyterian Church conducted the remembrance service and read the eulogy. He had visited Hazel often, and as he read and spoke of Hazel, his listeners were aware of how well he knew her. Hazel had a marvellous sense of humour and a deep faith.

Hazel was born in Guelph, Ontario, where she married George Milson and attended St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Son Robert was born in Guelph, and after they moved to Edmonton, Sharleen was born.

Hazel was a faithful member of Westmount Presbyterian Church WMS, remaining so after the family transferred to First Presbyterian which was within walking distance. She was dedicated to WMS, and worked in a leadership role on local, presbyterial, and synodical levels. Christian Education was another of Hazel's areas of work, Sunday School and C.G.I.T. in particular, through which she became a Girls' Work Secretary. She enjoyed camping, and felt that Women's Weekend Camp in June was a perfect foundation for living through the summer. When asked how she managed to do all this extra-curricular work, Hazel's emphatic answer was: "I have the best husband in the world!"

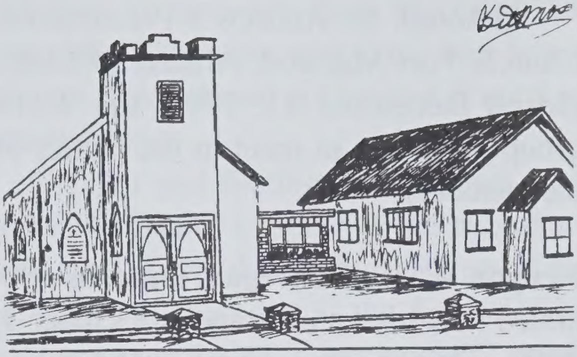
Eleanore Benita MacLean of St. Luke's-Knox, Finch, Ontario died December 15, 2001, age 83. Eleanore was a Life Member of the WMS, and an active church member serving on the Kirk Session, Board of Managers, choir, and Ladies Aid Society.

She was a public health nurse with the Eastern Ontario Unit in earlier years.

Eleanore is going to be very much missed; she carried out a courageous battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

Anniversary

Twelve women gathered at the home of Marion Kvame in **Fort Macleod, Alberta,** in October to celebrate the anniversary of two WMS groups. The St. Andrew's Dorothy Douglas Group hosted.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Fort McLeod, Alberta

The first WMS in St. Andrew's, Fort Macleod was organized on October 28, 1901 by Janet White, Presbyterian missionary home on furlough from India. Lois Boal, wife of a RCMP officer stationed in Fort Macleod, organized the Dorothy Douglas Group April 12, 1951. Two original members still belong to the group.

President Doris Schuitema read a brief history of the two groups from our church history book written in 1974. Marion Kvame read three articles from former Glad Tidings issues, with two concerning the Macleod Presbyterial meetings. The third article from the January 1971 issue concerned Kathleen Bailie (now Anderson) receiving a life membership from the Calgary Presbyterial before entering Ewart College.

Kathie Anderson, Lethbridge, led the In Memoriam service and closed with prayer.

Slides were shown from the 1960s and 1970s of the group and various church members.

The anniversary cake had the inscription: 1901-1951-2001; Presbyterian WMS; Fort Macleod, AB.

Although St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Fort Macleod, Alberta officially closed December 31, 1999, the WMS group continues to meet in the homes of the members.

Kenyon WMS, Dunvegan, Ontario celebrated its 12th Anniversary on October 1, 2001. The opening hymn, "O God of Bethel", was sung at the first meeting of the WMS in 1876.

Elizabeth Stewart conducted worship. Evelyn McQueen and Eunice Nixon read scriptures. Greetings were brought from Presbyterial and Synodical, and from Rev. Martin, Interim Moderator. Several notes, including one from Kingston Presbyterial were read.

Mrs. D. J. Hartwick gave the history of the WMS groups connected to Kenyon Church and Catherine McRae gave the reading "We Celebrate our History."

Christine Ball, Area Educational Consultant was guest speaker. Dorothy Fresque of Kingston sang a solo.

A skit "Memories" composed by Mary MacDonald and read by Eileen Campbell and Catherine MacRae, was both comical and informative.

Following the benediction and grace by Mr. Martin, there was a time of fellowship and refreshments. Catherine Hartrick cut the anniversary cake, made by Marjorie MacMillan.

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

Do you know that a mailing house produces the labels and subscription lists for the magazine? With each issue, the list of changes etc. is sent to the mailing house before the magazine is to be mailed, to make appropriate adjustments.

In January 2002 we changed to a new mailing house. The database containing the list of Glad Tidings subscribers was then installed onto the ACCESS data program on my computer for the first time. This will be more convenient when making adjustments to the subscription list. I will then e-mail the mailing house a corrected copy of the database a week before the magazine is printed. The names and addresses will then be directly imprinted on the magazine, instead of using labels, and they will take the magazine to the Post Office.

Thanks to Florence Ross, a volunteer, who faithfully assisted in the mailing of the Large Print issue of the Glad Tidings. Effective with the January/February issue, the Large Print will be mailed from the new mailing house rather than from the office.

OUR READERS
Write

This year's Christmas worship service was truly unique. We used it at our Christmas prayer group meeting, and since we are a multi-cultural group it was particularly appropriate. One of our members, originally from Jamaica, said it brought back images of her earlier life in that country, particularly the references to the women carrying baskets and jugs on their heads.

Also, we sometimes forget that Christmas is not just a pretty festival about a baby. Thanks for providing such an original and thought-provoking service.

Valerie Dunn, Gateway
Community Presbyterian Church, Toronto.

I wanted to tell you how much a verse in the Glad Tidings helped me. In July I had to fly to Barbados to say 'Goodbye' to my Mother. All the while there The Glad Tidings May/June issue was in my bag, but as things were I never got to read it until on the way back.

Alone and feeling awful as we flew over the island I took out the magazine and read. I could have kicked myself for not having shared it at the funeral. The poem was included in the article "Let Me Go" by Virginia Stirling on page 13. Thanks again.

Fleur Eenkhoorn, Sarnia, ON

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Jean Bingham
Arnprior, ON

Mrs. Jack (Mildred) Richardson
St. Andrew's, Beamsville, ON

Mrs. Mildred Burnett
St. Andrew's, Belleville, ON

Mrs. Marion F. Thomas
Knox, Belmont, ON
(long time member of Tempo WMS)

Mrs. Wilma Coleman
Alexandra, Brantford, ON

Mrs. Marion Swanston
Gordon, Burnaby, BC

Beatrice Morton
St. Andrew's, Carleton Place, ON

Mrs. Kay Freethy
First, Collingwood, ON

Mrs. D.K. MacLean
St. Lukes-Knox, Finch, ON

Mrs. Margaret Tuck
Knox Glenarm, ON

Mrs. Mary C. (Minnie) Fletcher
Glencoe, ON

Mrs. Isabel Adams
Knox, Gorrie, ON

Marjorie Higgins
Mabel Smith
St. Andrew's, Huntsville, ON

Mrs. Violet (Vi) Anderson
Kelowna, BC

Anne MacMurchy
Rose Schneider
Molesworth, St. Andrew's, ON

Miss Eileen Carveth
Miss Gertrude Kingsbury
Knox, Crescent, Kensington and First, Montreal, QC

Ivy Carter
Imelda Dalrymple
Emily Flood
Robert Campbell, Montreal QC

Mrs. Mildred Galbraith
St. Andrew's, Mount Forest, ON

Florence Rutherford
Knox, North Easthope, ON

Mrs. Mary Kerr
Duffs, Puslinch, ON

Mrs. Irene Bahm
Mrs. Reta Miller
Lochwinnoch, Renfrew, ON

Mrs. Edith McMillan
First, Seaforth, ON

Mrs. Evelyn Combe
Knox, St. Catharines, ON

Mrs. R. E. (Helen) Rose
First, Thunder Bay, ON

Eileen Cameron
St. Andrew's, Watford, ON

Edith Milne
Dorothy Olivant
(formerly with Ellen Douglas WMS of Knox)
Betty Stevens
St. Andrew's, Windsor, ON

Gertrude (Davies) Marshall
Woodville, ON

We can make a difference.

photo: Richard Fee, PWS&D

Her agile hands send the shuttle to and fro across the loom, creating a bright, vibrant fabric. She is one student learning to weave at the The Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation Center in Bawku, Ghana. Garu is like any vocational training centre—with one difference—all of the students here are "differently-abled".

Life in Ghana can be difficult for anyone, but for persons with disabilities the challenges of day to day survival are compounded. The Garu Centre is helping differently-abled persons (visually impaired, deaf, mute, physically disabled, or epileptic) learn skills that increase their ability to actively participate in society. Whether it is creating fabrics at the loom, stitching leather to make shoes, or studying agriculture differently-abled youth learn to make their abilities shine at Garu.

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Glad Tidings

May/June 2002

Inside:
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The *Short* Story of Zaccheus
Spring & Summer Poetry

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Cover Photo and photo page 3 by NormaTomlinson's friends Eileen and Alex Edwards.

Glad Tidings

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L. JUNE STEVENSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER
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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

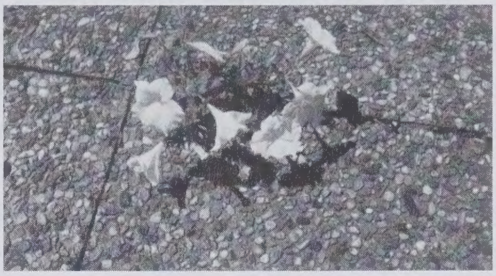
GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor



April 2002

The Little Plant that Could!

A Story Within a Story

The Little Plant that Could!

by Norma Tomlinson

Last summer I bought many trays of annuals. I looked forward to a handsome garden in the various areas I had prepared. Yet, in spite of watering and fertilizer, I had little to be proud of around my home in Byron, Ontario.

I gave up and let the drought win. Then one day I noticed a tiny green sprout coming up in the crack between the pebble blocks on the patio. It had to be a weed, I thought. But the sprout grew at an amazing rate and became the petunia plant you see in the picture.

It must have been a wind blown seed or a present from a low flying bird because I had not bought any petunias. I am not fond of them!

Needless to say this summer will be different. Petunias will get top billing in my Byron gardens.

Driving to work today in the midst of winter's last hurrah (I hope), I contemplated this issue of the magazine. I thought about Norma's touching story and the photo she sent. Yesterday when I enlarged it to see what it would look like on the cover, I accidentally placed the picture sideways. Do you see what I saw? An empty cross, with a bouquet of petunias hanging on it!

It reminded me of a story about a little bit of green coming up through the concrete on the Brooklyn Bridge. No earth in sight. Nothing growing nearby.

And then there are the mushrooms that came up in my driveway last summer. Right through the asphalt they grew. I ate some of them and I worried more about the possible effects of tar than I did about the mushrooms. My younger brother, a mushroom grower from B.C. says mushrooms are almost impossible to destroy. They have an incredible will to live.

What an amazing force life is, I thought. When I was younger, I enjoyed fairy tales. Growing up I hoped that my life would turn out splendidly and that I would live happily ever after (ever after whatever it was I had to suffer first). I would find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and have everything I needed.

Life isn't quite like that. Talk to Norma. When I called her this morning I could tell it was a bad day. She was resting. How are you, I asked. Oh, well, she said, cheerfully enough, sometimes I have good days, and sometimes I have bad days. I am whining today, she confessed.

It hasn't been a good year. Her husband who also has health problems had to give up driving recently. Their doctor of 49 years died last week. (Norma is an amputee with arthritis in most joints. The pain is so severe that she needs morphine.) One of her granddaughters was in a coma for four months last year. (Norma has 13 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.) They are having a "treadmill" party to celebrate the first year of her niece's recovery, Norma told me, with balloons and contributions to the treadmill.

Everything that seems so devastating turned out beautifully, she said. I cannot afford to lie down. I need to be ready to go. Tomorrow is a good day! So much is happening.

I think of Dan. Sweet sixteen and lying in hospital waiting for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. He had a double lung transplant last Friday. (Dan was born with cystic fibrosis. If he survives, the transplant may give him another six or seven years.) Pray for Dan's recovery.

I remember my son's first year on the police force. Twenty years old and trying to be a man. Another young police officer, Todd Baylis, was shot and killed in Toronto.

So Mum, my son said at the dinner table that night, what is all this about life after death? (Sure helps one define their faith!)

Belief in eternal life is at the heart of our faith. Our God is the Alpha and the Omega. God was here first - in the beginning and God will be here at the end. Or is the end really part of a circle that goes on and on so the beginning and the end lose their distinguishing marks?

There is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow after all. Where it is for you will depend where you are in the circle. The pot glows with the radiance of a God who loves and cares for us. And, it is filled to overflowing with abundant life.

The rainbow's end is in the rainbow's source.

Helen M. Luke

Mother's Song

Today I left some dishes dirty;
The bed was made about 3:30.
The diapers soaked a little longer;
The odour grew a great deal stronger.
The crumbs I spilled the day before
Are staring at me from the floor.
The fingerprints upon the wall
Will likely be there 'til next fall.
The dirty streaks on window panes
Will still be there until it rains.
"You lazy, messy thing," you say,
"And just what did you do today?"
I held a toddler while she wept;
I nursed a baby 'til he slept;
I played a game of hide and seek;
And squeezed a toy so it would squeak.
I pulled a wagon, sang a song,
Taught a child right from wrong.

What did I do this whole day through?
Not much, I guess it's really true,
Unless you think that what I've done
Might be important to Someone
Who loves me still and shares my cares?
If that is true, I've done my share.

Jeannette Whilsmith

Harriet Beecher Stowe Defender of the Abolition of Slavery

by Maria Stam

In the nineteenth century industrialization created a division between home and workplace. Consequently, women were left outside of public life. An exception was the households of Protestant clergy; they created opportunities for wives and daughters to accept functions beyond their family duties. Two examples among others were Harriet Beecher Stowe and Josephine Butler. Both women were supported in their work by their husbands, brothers and sons.

Harriet was the daughter of a Calvinist minister and the sister of six brothers who all became clergymen. She was born on June 14, 1811 as the sixth child of Lyman Beecher and his wife Roxanna in Lichtfield, Connecticut. Her mother died before she reached her fourth birthday.

Henry Ward Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Photo by Matthew Brady. Courtesy of The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, Connecticut.

The oldest sister, Catherine, who looked after the younger siblings until her father remarried, became a role model for Harriet. In 1816 Harriet entered Madame Kilbourne's School where she developed a love for reading, studying, and writing. At age eight her father, an ambitious and strict man, permitted her to use his library after she convinced him that she was able to understand the content of adult books.

After spending a few years at the John Brace Academy, she became a student of the school for teenage girls, established by Catherine in 1824. Here she studied Latin, French, and Italian.

In 1826 she moved with her family to Boston. A year later she returned to Catherine who by then had opened the Hartford Female Seminary. She resumed her studies while working as an assistant to the teachers.

Six years later when Rev. Beecher accepted the position of President of the Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, Harriet joined the family. It was in Cincinnati that she learned for the first time about slave holding. Slavery had become economically profitable for the South while the North, due to its early industrialization, did not depend on slaves.

When Catherine founded the Western Female Institute, she hired Harriet as the administrator. As a compulsive worker, Harriet constantly asked too much of herself, and in spite of her heavy workload still tried to spend time on her writings. Her first article appeared in the Western Monthly Magazine, and in 1834 her first book, a collection of short stories, was published.

After her marriage in 1836 to Calvin Stowe, a biblical scholar, she increased her output of essays, articles, and stories. A year later she gave birth to twin girls, that were followed by a third daughter and four sons.

Motherhood also brought tragedies. Her second last baby died as an infant in a cholera epidemic. One of her sons, Henry, drowned at the age of twenty-one. Son Frederick fought in the civil-war from 1862-65 and became an alcoholic, which caused great mental anguish to Harriet. One day he disappeared never to be seen again.

In between babies and growing children Harriet wrote extensively. Her additional income was badly needed since her husband, a professor at the Lane Theological Seminary, was paid irregularly. Several times her health came close to a breaking point, and she had to be sent away for a holiday. On one of those occasions, staying with her brother William in Putnam, Ohio, she became aware of the abolition cause.

Influenced by her father's negative opinion of the Abolitionists, she now began to study their ideas more closely. Then she became convinced that slavery was evil; it had to be destroyed. In her opinion education could help the North and the South to overcome their disagreements.

Harriet hired a black girl from Kentucky who was free according to Ohio's laws. When her husband heard that the girl's master was looking for her, he took her to a friend's farm where she lived in hiding until the danger passed. Harriet used this episode in her famous book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. By early 1840, her articles were published in the most prestigious American magazines. She continued to write against the terrible evil of slavery. When Congress passed the law that escaped slaves should be returned, she became emerged in the struggle against that bill.

What she needed was a good idea that could open people's eyes to the horrendous human injustice. Then on a Sunday in February 1851, as she attended Communion service, she suddenly saw in a vision a slave viciously beaten by his master and that the dying man forgave the murderer.

Convinced God had shown her the way, she decided to write a full length novel. Knowing that an attack on slavery had to be based on facts, she conducted extensive research and began to correspond with a former slave, Frederic Douglas. She started to write Uncle Tom's Cabin in instalments, one to be followed by another each week. By March 1852 she finished her work. The same month the series was published as a book. Thinking that she had written only a moderate work based on her belief that in a truly Christian world slavery could not exist, she hoped her story would stimulate a process of healing.

Conservatives within the Protestant Church had failed to act by getting too much involved in theological arguments while the slave trade flourished. She sought the support of British noblemen and colleagues like Charles Dickens. But her fear was unfounded. Already the first day three thousand copies of the book were sold, followed by reprints that numbered 120 editions within a year. The book was translated into 40 languages and re-written as a play by several playwrights.

When the South reacted with hostility toward her, she wrote another book *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* in which she documented her sources and brought forward her own position to the slave system. The Anti-Slavery Society of Scotland invited her on a speaking tour in Great Britain. Everywhere she went she was received with great reverence and many gifts were handed to her. The most treasured gift was 26 leather bound volumes with 600,000 signatures by British women, called "An Affectionate and Christian Address from the Women of Great Britain to the Women of America."

The publishing of her novel changed the family's financial situation, allowing Harriet to hire enough help to free herself from housekeeping. She continued to write and to speak out against slavery. Another novel with the title *Dred*, based on a slave insurrection in Virginia in 1831, was published in 1856 and again was received with great enthusiasm.

While the volume of her writing was tremendous, she had no idea how to find a practical solution for the eradication of slavery. As the South became more dependent on slavery for its economic welfare, the North turned more persistent in abolishing it. In 1862 the civil war broke out that finally brought freedom to the slaves. President Abraham Lincoln said in 1863 that it was Harriet Beecher Stowe, the little woman, who had brought about the war.

This little woman not only worked for the abolition of slavery, she also was actively involved in the emancipation of women, especially in their fight for voting rights. Harriet spoke out for the better education of girls and for their liberty to accept teaching positions before their marriage as she herself had done.

As time went on Harriet, raised as an orthodox Calvinist, became more liberal and tolerant toward other religions and persons of lower moral standards. Known worldwide for her contribution to end the slave trade, her fame did not deter her Christian conviction. Just the opposite was true: it formed the basis of her tireless work. In this way Uncle Tom's Cabin can be considered a religious book, emphasizing that Christ's love does not know about class differences. His love and mercy reaches out to all humankind.

Harriet continued writing far into advanced age, but none of her many books affected the political and social situation in the United States more than *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. She died on July 1st, 1896 at the age of eighty-five.

Ref.: Noel B. Gerson, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Praeger Publishers Inc., New York, N.Y., 1976.
Frank Jehle, Great Women of Christianity, Paulus Publishing, Freiburg, Switzerland, 1998.

PLANTS OF THE BIBLE

A Puzzle

by Jim Phillips

T	B	S	K	W	J	E	F	R	I	E
H	Y	S	S	O	P	U	D	T	T	K
A	R	N	O	T	T	O	C	A	A	A
T	R	A	V	D	O	H	N	L	E	R
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I	E	L	M	X	R	P	G	O	W	N
H	Z	R	C	G	I	F	Y	N	H	A
S	O	M	E	Q	F	R	O	D	T	M
W	Q	M	N	B	R	L	S	F	B	F
V	O	A	K	E	I	N	E	G	S	K
P	D	P	B	L	E	N	T	I	L	H
Z	Y	L	Y	D	R	A	T	S	U	M
C	U	C	U	M	B	E	R	H	P	E
M	B	N	C	G	G	M	F	L	A	X
S	Y	C	A	M	O	R	E	W	L	J
A	E	L	K	J	U	L	F	R	M	O
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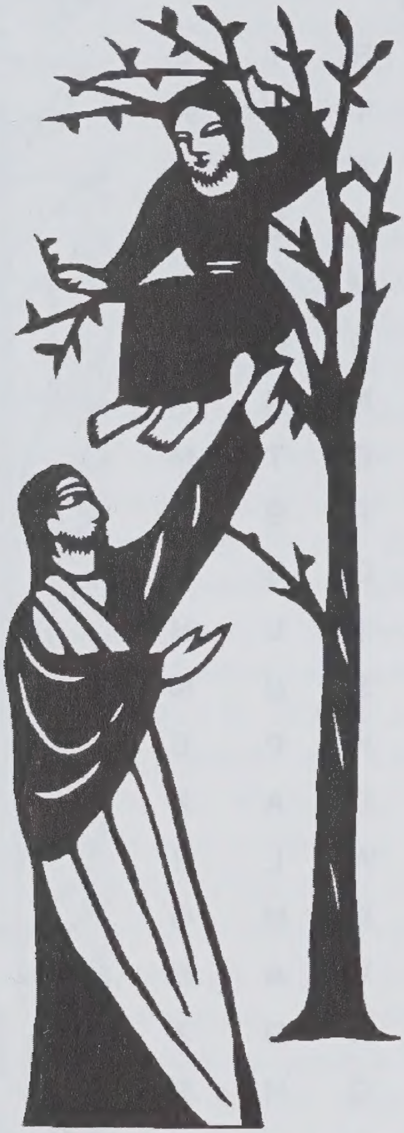
O	R	L	I	D	D	E	U	A	U	Z
O	A	Y	M	N	G	X	J	Q	H	P
M	B	X	L	W	K	T	Y	C	S	I

ALMOND
BARLEY
COTTON
CUCUMBER
FIG
FIR
FLAX
GOURD
HYSSOP
LENTIL
LILY
MANDRAKE
MULBERRY
MUSTARD
OAK
OLIVE
PALM
POMEGRANATE
SHITTAH
SYCAMORE
TEREBINTH
WHEAT
WORMWOOD

The *Short* Story of Zacchaeus

by G. Fred Ash



(See Fred's first article in the January/February 2002 Glad Tidings: The Revival of Storytelling. This time, Fred tells the story!)

It's not easy being short. Zacchaeus knew that from experience. When he was a child he had to stand on a chair just to reach the tabletop (that's how he developed the habit of always eating his meals standing up).

When he went to Hebrew school his arms were not long enough to open the scrolls far enough to read all across the page. The rabbi had to hold the scroll open for him.

When as a young man he would walk in the procession to the temple, he rarely saw anything except someone's else's back. It was even worse if he happened to be walking behind a donkey!

But worst of all was the teasing. "Hey, I heard that Zacchaeus was studying to be a rabbi. Well at least all his sermons will be short." Very funny.

"Hey Zacchaeus, I heard that short people don't live long." Hearty har har.

"I'll show them," he thought. "I may not be big. I may not be strong. But I have brains. I'll get even. I'll become a tax collector!"

And that's what he did. As tax collector he had all the power of Rome behind him. Those who teased him when he was young, now trembled when he knocked on their doors. To those who handed him insults, he now handed bills. Those who once laughed at him now addressed him with respect: "Yes, Mr. Zacchaeus. No, Mr. Zacchaeus. Good day, Mr. Zacchaeus."

Zacchaeus even liked to tell his own version of short jokes: "Did you hear about the short tax collector? The bills he handed out were longer than himself!" (That's not funny Zacchaeus.) Zacchaeus was so good at tax collecting that he became the chief tax collector in his town of Jericho. And he grew very, very rich.

The only problem with being the chief tax collector was that you didn't have any friends. Zacchaeus didn't have any friends

Acting up in drama class!

before he was a tax collector, but now it was worse because he had enemies. Before they just teased him (they didn't really mean to hurt his feelings; they just didn't understand what it felt like to be short), but now they outright hated him.

Zacchaeus felt that hatred. It was worse than the teasing. And his revenge of collecting taxes didn't make things any better for him. He wanted friends but what could he do? The only job he knew how to do was collect taxes.

He was truly a miserable little man.

Then one day he heard about Rabbi Jesus who was teaching that God loves everyone: the black and the white, the Jew and the Roman, male and female, tall people and short people. This sounded quite interesting to Zacchaeus and he wanted to meet this Rabbi Jesus.

Wouldn't you know it. One day Rabbi Jesus came to Jericho. A huge crowd of people thronged around the Rabbi. You could not get anywhere within 100 cubits of the man. Zacchaeus strained his neck. He stood on tiptoe. He jumped in the air. He couldn't get so much as a glimpse of the Rabbi.

But Zacchaeus had brains. And he put them to use. As he watched the crowd move along the Jericho Road he noticed a sycamore tree growing in an orchard beside the road. One of the branches grew right out over the road.

"Aha," thought Zachaeus. "If I can climb that tree and shimmy out on that branch I will be so close to Rabbi Jesus when he comes this way that I will almost be able to touch him. I'll certainly be able to see him and hear what he is saying."

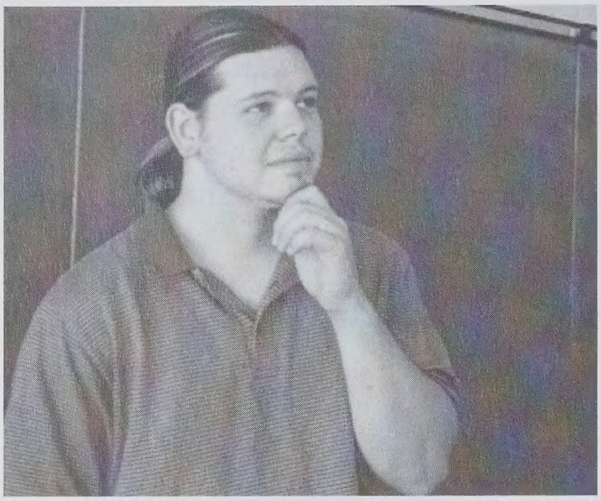
So Zacchaeus climbed up into that sycamore tree and waited. With his robe bundled around him and his face peeking out from the leaves he looked more like a Cheshire cat than a tax collector.

Then the crowd shuffled by. They stirred up dust into the air which made Zacchaeus cough. And that made the Rabbi look up. "Zacchaeus," said Rabbi Jesus, "Come down right now. I must stay at your house today."

Well, Zacchaeus was dumbfounded. He didn't know what to say. He shimmied back down that tree and stood looking up at Jesus, who looked down at him and smiled. And Zacchaeus know this was no joke.

Zacchaeus turned and led the way to his house. You have to smile when you think of it now. There was this wee, little man leading the procession. Behind him was Jesus, so tall and handsome. Behind him were the disciples and then all the people whose pockets Zacchaeus had made lighter. But at least for once in his life, Zacchaeus was at the front of the parade.

The people at the back of the procession and those standing along the street were amazed, and not a bit too pleased.



Cliff Ford, drama student: ***To be or not to be...?***

"Look," they said. "Rabbi Jesus is gone to be the guest of a sinner." "A friend of tax-collectors is no friend of mine," muttered others of the bystanders.

When they arrived at Zacchaeus's house Zacchaeus ordered his servants to prepare the biggest feast they could put together - apologizing for giving them such a "short" notice. In hardly any time at all, the servants had a huge meal prepared of roast lamb and mutton and bagels and everything kosher. The people waiting out in the streets could smell the delicious aroma wafting out through the open windows. Those closest to the house could hear what was being said.

Zacchaeus was so happy that his smile stretched from ear to ear. He looked more like Howdy Doody than a tax collector. "Imagine, Rabbi Jesus in my house," he thought to himself. He who had no friends now had the most famous Israelite in the world as his friend. "Rabbi Jesus sitting at my table," he thought.

I don't know what they talked about, but as they did Zacchaeus seemed to grow six inches taller. I'm sure if you measured him he wouldn't be any taller but it just seemed that way. His eyes were brighter. His shoulders straighter. His frown was gone. There was a confidence and…yes, a joy in his face.

Then Zacchaeus stood up. And no one dared tell a joke about his height. There seemed to be a dignity about him.

"Look, Lord," he said loud enough for all to hear. "Here and now I give half my possessions to the poor." (There was absolute silence in the room as everyone's mouth dropped open in total wonderment.) "And", he continued, "if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Everyone stared at Zacchaeus and he just stood there beaming like a lighthouse, not at all like a tax collector.

Then Jesus spoke to the crowd. I think he was half laughing for joy. "Today salvation is come to this house," he said. "because this man too is a son of Abraham."

I guess you could say that at that moment, Zacchaeus's career as a tax collector was cut short.

Fred Ash is a Salvation Army officer in Toronto. He was an editor of Christian magazines for 13 years and has written hundreds of published articles. He is a part-time student at Tyndale Seminary.

Lord, Please Use Me

by Eve Stickland

As Milly was getting ready to go shopping and have lunch at the mall, she suddenly felt totally lost and lonely.

Since her husband died two years ago she had tried to keep busy. She went to church regularly, taught Sunday School and belonged to all the women's groups. But there seemed to be something missing in her life. What was it?

She prayed to God and asked for guidance, but an answer to her prayers never seemed to come.

"Please use me," she called out. "I am here for you Lord." And she really meant it.

Milly had been a Christian almost all her life, and she was brought up on "sound Christian principles." But for her that was not enough. She wanted to serve Him in a very special way.

Now that she was sixty and retired from teaching, she had so much more time to become involved in His work. She wanted her life to become more meaningful and to be a reflection of God's love.

Oh well, she thought, I will leave it with Him and pray about it.

Slipping her winter coat on over her bent frame, she left the warmth of her bungalow and scraped the snow off her old '91 Honda, backed out of the driveway and drove down the street to the mall.

As she entered the parking lot she could see an old man shuffling between cars, approaching shoppers as they were leaving the store. He looked thin, hungry and shrivelled with cold.

"Any spare change?" he asked.

"No!" snapped Milly as she got out of her car and walked on. He will only spend it on beer, she thought. As she entered the store she turned to see the old man staggering against the wind and pulling his threadbare coat around his gaunt frame.

"I wonder if he really was hungry?" she whispered, as she entered the store. "Too late now."

Heading for the supermarket, Milly took out her grocery list, loaded her shopping cart and walked over to the checkout counter, standing behind a young mother with a baby. The long lineup moved slowly, and then came to a complete halt while the young woman counted out pennies for her groceries.

Milly became restless and irritable at the delay, and rolled her eyes in disgust as the mother emptied the contents of her small change purse onto the counter. Finally making a quick decision, she bagged her groceries, put back the milk she could not pay for, picked up her baby and left.

Milly sighed as she watched the young mother and child leave the store with a small bag of groceries.

After that long wait she was starving. It was lunch time, so she paid for her order and headed for the nearest restaurant.

While nibbling on a hamburger and french fries loaded with ketchup, she looked up to see a crippled woman with a walker struggling to get out through a heavy oak door. But she remained seated, finishing her meal.

As she wiped ketchup from her plump fingers and her mouth, she looked around to see if anyone else would help. And they did. So she finished her coffee and left.

Milly had enjoyed her outing and smiled as she got into her car with her purchases. The aroma of berry muffins filled the air.

"Oh Lord," she prayed on the way home, "Open my eyes to the needs of others. I am here for you. I am all yours. Please use me."

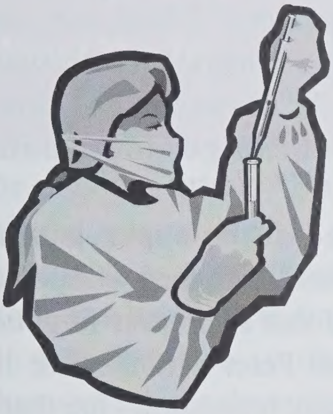
Weeds

Where oh where do weeds come from?
Do little elves sprinkle seeds each night?
They seem to sprout so fast each morning light.
My neighbor cries "Pull your weeds-I don't want some,"
I reply they have such pretty purple flowers and love to run.
Sunny yellow dandelions announce spring has come,
We are hoping for wine making so we'll need a ton.
Before we curse these fertile plants
Remember God created them too,
Some for medicine, some for salad greens.
Who needs an exercise gym
When pulling weeds is so much fun?
Weeds combined in a compost pile
Return to us as rich new soil.
So weeds do have a purpose true.
Count your blessings each time you pull.

Diana Sinden

A Sharing of Pain

by Lini R. Grol



The emergency ward of any hospital is a very busy area. Working in the ER can be exciting, but sometimes it is mentally exhausting as well as physically draining.

Peter was brought in to us after having been run over by a truck. He was riding his motor bike and had crossed over an intersection when the accident occurred. He was seriously injured and in a lot of pain.

While the doctors were trying to save his life I was given the task of comforting his mother. She was very distraught. Since I also had a son of my own who like hers rode a motor bike, this allowed me to relate to her intense emotional distress. I knew how I would feel had the same thing happened to my son.

We were sitting in the special room allotted for trauma family members. "I don't know what I'm going to do," she sobbed. "Lord, please don't let him die. He's all I've got in this world."

"What about your husband?" I gently asked.

"What about him?" she cried out loud. "He isn't here is he? Do you see him anyplace?"

It was obvious by the tone of her voice that this was another underlying problem. I chose not to give her an answer.

Peter's mother started to move towards the door. "I want to see my son," she said. "What's taking them so long?"

I gently took her arm. "The doctors are busy with him right now," I said helping her back to her seat. "Once they have him comfortable, I know they will come and get you."

"I told him not to ride that bike in the dark," she sobbed, " but he wouldn't listen to me. Why is it our children never listen to us? Have you any children?" she asked me.

"Yes," I told her." I have a daughter and a son."

"Do they listen to you? Do they do as you tell them to?" she inquired.

I shook my head. "No they don't always listen to what I say. But then do any children?" I said.

"Well, what if your son wanted to ride his bike in the dark. Would you let him? Would you try to stop him?" Her tear-stained face peered closely into mine as she waited for me to reply.

I swallowed hard before speaking. "It just so happens that my son does ride a motor-bike and I...."

"You wouldn't let him go out at night, would you?" she quickly interrupted.

"I should have stopped him," she cried. "I know one thing for sure, once he's recovered he'll never ride that bike ever again."

Just then the supervisor came into the room. She motioned to me with a slight movement of her head; then she came over to Peter's mother and sat down beside her.

"Mrs. Starr," she said gently. "You can come and see your son now. But first I need to tell you something about his condition. He's been severely injured as you know and he's in….."

Peter's mother was on her feet and heading out of the door. "I want to see my son," she yelled. "I don't care what any of you say. He's going to be all right. I just know that he's going to be fine."

I followed Peter's mother as she headed towards the room that held her son. The supervisor informed me that Peter wasn't expected to live. I would have to give Mrs. Starr all the support she was going to need, as well as call Special Services for some additional help.

The hospital had an excellent Social Service department and I was able to relay to them that they would soon be required in the ER department.

When the supervisor and I entered Peter's room we found his mother loudly sobbing with her arms splayed across her son's body. I moved over to her and gently placed my own arm around her.

"He can't die," she wailed. "He's too young. He hasn't had enough time to live."

"I'm so sorry," I said, my own eyes now filling with tears. I wasn't sure what I should do. As nurses we had been told it was best not to get too emotionally involved.

I looked at the supervisor and she shook her head. She then whispered something to me that I've never forgotten. "It's alright to let Peter's mother see that you share her pain; tears shows her that you really care."

And share we did. Over the course of the next hour we held onto each other, prayed and cried together. After her son's funeral Mrs. Starr came back to the hospital to see me, and she thanked me for my caring. Although this occurred while I was in the role of a nurse it was really more an act of one mother empathizing with another's suffering.

The Porch

The porch is a place you can hear the hum and hiss of traffic, the chorus of nature's ease. A place of unofficial spies and amateur meteorologists. A place of theatre where the audience sits on the stage, and watches the play beyond. A place of hollering and guffaws, small talk as large as the world.

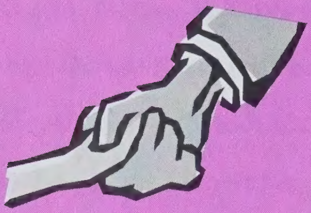
Out on the porch is where geraniums are taken at the first sign of spring. Where children make mud pies and friends. Where the dog curls into a wreath and birds square dance. Where brandy and thoughts are poured, proposals accepted, stars weighed. Where the creak of a swing can sand the rough edges of a widower.

These days we are sequestered inside, facing the television, not each other. Our own stories lose their breath. We need to step out of our homes, their flat fronts, the screen door; to widen ourselves on the porch, as balusters shape themselves into arms.

Joan Bond

Doing the Two-Step

by Janet Wiebe



In the previous article "Be Prepared", emphasis was on how to spot sexual harassment. A spiritual solution was presented. Yet it still remains an issue: what do you do when confronted with sexual harassment in a desensitized age?

G. Lloyd Rediger, a Presbyterian minister (USA), emphasized that 15% of clergy are on the verge of sexual malfeasance (violation of expectations) beyond the 10 percent who already have violated expectations.[1] This does not mean you will know who they are.

Most targets of sexual harassment, particularly within the church, simply leave the congregation, denomination, or Christian fellowship of any kind. It isn't the workplace for most Christians. Most of us do not have to stay in order to eat, pay bills, or have a roof over our heads. Removing yourself from the situation is a real option. What it means, however is that the behaviour may go unchecked if you leave without telling someone else in the congregation.

Some victims leave and try to press charges in the secular arena. Too many victims of sexual harassment and assault think that if the courts of the land convict the perpetrator then that person will suddenly see the error of his (her) ways and repent! If repentance and mercy, not justice, are your goal for your perpetrator then the agony of laying charges is not worth it. Research proves that conviction does not generate repentance.

Sometimes God calls us to stay. Perhaps some of us break the silence to fight the good fight, to run the race, to find out if we are still really alive or just walking shells. People who break the silence face the denial of others and sometimes persecution. This can be so severe by leaders and laity alike that I urge you to stay only if you are convinced that God wants you to stay and work on this issue. Your first order of work is to increase your personal time in prayer and scripture reading. Put on the full armour of God that you may be strong.

The second order of business is to determine to whom you can talk. This is the trickiest part of all. Talking with someone who knows the situation, the setting and its people, is a logical approach to healing from a trauma. If we were talking about a physical death within the church there would be no problem finding someone with whom to speak.

Talking with someone about this trauma within the congregation or denomination may be interpreted as an attack on someone's career, i.e. the minister's. Unless your congregation was very healthy in the first place, and the perpetrator very new in the picture, this is pretty much the

> Increase your personal time in prayer and scripture reading. Put on the full armour of God that you may be strong.

response you will receive if your chosen contact breaks confidence and says something to another elder or significant other.

When sexual malfeasance was identified in the 19th century the only concern was about morality and hypocrisy. The professional ethics of a pastor were not an issue.[2] Very little has changed. You may find yourself leaving the congregation after this second step if your contact did not have the skill to know who *not* to talk to. Face the facts, your contact is a secondary victim (even as the rest of the congregation is) and will feel they need to talk to someone too.

Documenting Inappropriate Behaviour

Are you being stalked by the person in question? Document everything. Is he suddenly showing up at choir practice when he never did before? In the nursery? Do you have to use indirect pathways in the building to avoid physical contact with the person in question? Do there appear to be deliberate efforts by the person to go out of his or her way to invade your personal space, that is, to touch you in public? Document.

Ask someone handy to run interference for you while you are trying to get out of the room. "I don't feel like being touched right now even to shake hands." If your brother or sister in Christ is helpful in engaging the person so you can make a smooth exit without interference, you have actually engaged in a teaching moment about cooperation, respecting people's wishes, and respecting people's right to maintain their personal space. Don't ask the same person all the time. Spread the teaching moment around. At the same time you won't look weird always asking for interference maneuvers.

Fourthly, be clear to the person in question that comments like "You have a great body" and "Nice ass" are not acceptable and grossly inappropriate. These comments are, in fact, "small rapes."[3] Practise your response in front of the mirror to become comfortable with speaking your truth aloud.

Next, if you can afford it, buy the smallest audio tape recorder you can find with a microphone cord to hide in a pocket. Pin the microphone out of sight near your face. If you are alone with the person in question just slip your hand into your pocket and flip the switch. Practise at home first. Such tapes cannot be used in a Canadian Federal court but the tapes have so many uses. This evidence will guarantee your credibility with all who hear it, whether it be the elders or a special committee set up just to deal with your situation.

Transcribe the tape and hand out the typed interaction as you "recalled" it. Save the tape unerased. Use another tape with the tape machine hidden again and tape the meeting. Transcribe that meeting as well. Things that get said in such meetings may be more suited to the Twilight Zone than in any sane setting. But no setting where a perpetrator of sexual harassment reigns is sane.

By now the odds are high that the powers that be have tried to surround you to "contain" you to avoid letting the "poison" of your position get out to the congregation. Have you been threatened with legal action yet? Don't fear it. But this is where the real problem comes in.

In secular court or in a civil lawsuit it is unlikely those who will judge a case will know the perpetrator. In church court, that is not the situation. Influential people may not only know the person in question, but also consider him a highly esteemed colleague, acquaintance, friend and also an 'anointed' brother ("Touch not my anointed" I Chron. 16:22). It really is the victim who is on trial.

Under these circumstances, it is difficult to know what material to give a presbytery to help them determine whether anything should go to court. Odds are that by this time the victim's character is being slandered by the threatened perpetrator and there is no such thing as an untainted jury of peers.

In the pretrial period, the defence tries to "find discrepancies between what you said in your statement and what you are saying now. It is not uncommon for you to remember something new, forget some details, or remember something differently."[4]

By the time a victim within a church setting reaches this point, he or she has no reasonable expectation that any formal statement would be protected from the eyes or knowledge of the perpetrator. Family, friends, members of the church could harass you in turn to drop your charges. Again, follow God's lead whether or not to take this course of action.

In one case the victim just wanted to be left alone but the perpetrator had decided that a good defense was a good offense and, not only slandered this woman throughout presbytery, but an elder was put up to the task of telephoning the target of all this attention during the week before Christmas to threaten her with legal action if she did not recant. She welcomed them getting together to define exactly what it was she was to recant. The leaders eventually left her alone but feeling slandered.

What we need in our church is a comprehensive training program for each congregation concerning these issues of abuse of power in order to repent of our security blanket of denial. An informed Body of Christ upheld in prayer by the power of the Holy Spirit is our best weapon against sin infiltrating our sanctuaries. Our committees and courts will then be filled with informed and hopefully wiser and trustworthy members whom victims can readily trust.

---

[1] Janet Booker, **UnHoly Orders: Abuse of Power That Tempts Us All**; The Identification and Recovery Process from Sexual Harassment and Assault by Clergy and Other Religious Leaders, FreedomLine Enterprises, 25 Tasker Street, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. L2R 3Z9, 1996, xviii. G. Lloyd Rediger, **Ministry and Sexuality**, 1990. Augsburg Fortress, 119.

[2] **Unholy Orders**, Ibid., 12. Marie M. Fortune, **Is Nothing Sacred?**, Harper & Row, 1989, xii.

[3] Linda E. Ledray, R.N., PhD., **Recovering from Rape**, Practical Advice on Overcoming the Trauma and Coping with Police, Hospitals, and Court - for Survivors of Sexual Assault and for Their Families, Lovers, and Friends, Henry Holt, New York, 1986, 23.

[4] Ledray, Ibid., 181.

The email address for Janet Wiebe, UnHoly Orders has changed to: jwiebe9@cogeco.ca. The Fax # given in the last issue is no longer available.

The March/April 2002 Glad Tidings contained incorrect information. Additional copies of the Presbyterian Church policy for dealing with sexual abuse and/or harassment is not available free from The Book Room but can be ordered for $6.

Editor's Note:

The previous article "Be Prepared: Sexual Harassment in the Church" p 8 March/April Glad Tidings generated some response from readers. While I always encourage people to share their concerns in writing, many were reluctant to do so because of the sensitive nature of the article.

Several expressed appreciation in phone calls. One said the article was excellent and should be in the Presbyterian Record. Another felt the article was too negative and sounded as if the church is rife with sexual harassment.

A friend confessed her personal experience to me, saying that articles like this enable a person to be more open and share with others. This aids in healing.

One person commented on a feeling of being harassed by clergy in sermons through the use of inappropriate words like "impotent."

Issues such as this are not easy to confront. A lawyer said recently that there has been a decrease of sexual abuse in schools since more people have been coming forward. Getting things out into the open can be a deterrent. That's a hopeful sign.

One caller said, "I cannot help but feel that this HAS to very helpful and eye opening to some out there." She recommended the book *People of the Lie* by Christian sociologist Scott Peck, author of *The Road Less Travelled*. "It is absolute reinforcement to this article," she added.

Many feel it is helpful to balance articles like this in some way. Are there stories out there that should be written? Are you a clergy person who has been abused by a parishioner? Contact the editor if you have something to say.

Some were concerned that there weren't more resources listed. In response to that, Susan Clarke of The Book Room has provided the following titles that may be helpful.

Books for Further Reading on the Topic:

The Congregation Is Also A Victim: Sexual Abuse and the Violation of Trust by Nancy Myer Hopkins, MS, Alban Institute. $15.65

Dreaming of Eden, Reflections on Christianity and Sexuality edited by Kathy Galloway, St. Andrews Press. $21.25

Is Nothing Sacred? The Story of a Pastor, The Women He Sexually Abused, and the Congregation He Nearly Destroyed by Marie M. Fortune, Harper Collins. $17.75

Religious Abuse, A Pastor Explores the Many Ways Religion Can Hurt As Well As Heal by Keith Wright DMin, Northstone Publishing. $23.25

Sex in the Parish by Karen Lebacqz and Ronald G. Barton, Westminster John Knox Press. $26.25

Sex in the Forbidden Zone, When Men in Power - Therapists, Doctors, Clergy, Teachers, and Others - Betray Women's Trust by Peter Rutter, M.D., Fawcett Crest $7.50

Sexual Abuse in Christian Homes and Churches by Carolyn Holderread Heggen, Forword by Marie M. Fortune, Herald Press $18.25

OUR READERS
Write

Dear June:
I always look forward to getting my Glad Tidings.

However in the March/April 2002 issue there is a feature which disturbs me a great deal - re Sexual Harassment in the Church by Janet Wiebe.

In the second last paragraph on p 8 she asks, "Is an embrace from a person in authority ever appropriate...?

I come from a family of six where hugging was a big plus to each one of us in times of joy, sorrow or coming and going each day.

Now that I'm grown up and in my senior years I still like to "give" and "get" hugs. To me it is a way to express our Christian love for each other.

I attended the ordination service for Carol Hamilton recently and as the elders, clergy and presbytery lined up to congratulate her, each one hugged her dearly. It was a beautiful sight to see.

This whole article is very negative and no positive aspects stated (re: adults).

I feel we are all very aware of the dangers we face in this world, but I feel our Glad Tidings is no place for such a report - rather it should be uplifting to all of us.

In Christian love,
Neola McArthur
Brampton, ON

Editor:
I enjoyed and appreciate the article by Janet Wiebe in the March/April issue. I do wish, however, that the article in question had included something on the subject of "Improper and Inappropriate Expressions from the Pulpit", when elders and managers do not (and will not) take action. My question is, "Who can, and how can this be done." To those who say they did not hear, I quote the familiar saying: "There is none so deaf as he who will not hear."

A concerned Presbyterian
(Name withheld by request)

Going, Going, Gone

They're blocking off the meadows,
fouling up the streams
ruining the legends
on which we built our dreams.
meadows are high rises now
streams full of cement,
where kids once played baseball
landlords collect the rent.
Streams, meadows, legends,
rare as a dinosaur's tail
are now in a classification
of Jonah and the whale.

Gladys Nolan

"I"-Witness

The Internet is one of the marvels of the modern day. One can investigate many things that are going on in the world. One can also make good friends on "chat" programs.

I belong to such a "chat" group composed of senior citizens, which stretches from Victoria to Halifax.

One member in particular and I have made contact and find ourselves both committed Christians.

This woman has just recently been diagnosed with colon cancer. She is undergoing chemotherapy and is having a rather rough time. I gather this from her letters. She is an artist and since I am an amateur artist - we have something in common.

She has been sending me by way of the Internet copies of some of her paintings, and has asked me to send her some of mine.

Last night I decided to do so, and as I scrolled down the list of paintings I have committed to my computer, my mouse of its own accord, stopped at one name - Jesus.

This was a picture I had copied out of a book several years ago in pastels. It shows our Lord in semi-profile. I was impelled to send this to my friend.

This morning I received a letter on my computer from her, which started out:

"Kay I am in tears. Last night I could not sleep I was so troubled. I got up and went to my computer and there was the picture of our dear Lord. As I gazed on his sweet face I was comforted and could go back to bed and sleep."

I do not know what inspired me to send that particular picture to my friend, but I am comforted knowing that receiving it comforted her.

Kay Berry, Richmond,. BC

Submit your story to "I" - Witness!

"I" - Witness began over ten years ago, in 1991. It was the idea of Ed Mason of Toronto who challenged readers to share personal thoughts about faith and spiritual understanding. This column continues to attract readers who tell their stories of daily witness to God working in their lives.

Send your contribution of up to 500 words by fax, email, or snail mail to: Editor, Glad Tidings, 50 Wynford Dr, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7.

Fax: 1-416-441-2825.

Email: jstevenson@presbyterian.ca

If your story is published we will send you a complimentary copy of the magazine and a free book.

Just Ask Him

I cannot promise you life without heartaches or trouble.
But I can promise Jesus will lead you through to victory.
Just ask Him.

I cannot promise that you will never again sin.
But I can promise you His forgiveness.
Just ask Him.

I cannot promise that you will never make mistakes.
But I can promise that Jesus can make miracles out of mistakes.
Just ask Him.

I cannot promise you everyday happiness.
But I can promise you Jesus' peace and joy.
Just ask Him.

I cannot promise you a tearless life.
But I can promise you more laughter than tears.
Just ask Him.

I cannot promise that everyone will like, love or accept you.
But I can promise you Jesus' unending and unconditional love.
Just ask Him.

I cannot promise to answer all your questions.
But I can promise that Jesus will.
Just ask Him.

I cannot promise that you will never experience loneliness.
But I can promise His healing touch and everlasting life.
Just ask Him.

Gail Northgrave

Program

Margaret Robertson
Program Secretary

What is Your Vision of Church?

In *Effective Church Leadership, Building on the Twelve Keys*, Kennon Callahan portrays two models of church. I wonder which model we follow. He claims that the Mission Outpost model is the preferred one. The Churched-Culture model comes from the 40s and 50s and is no longer viable in a society that is not churched-culture. Ministry and mission is apart from the world, yet in the world. Therefore we are influenced by all that is around us. WMS women have a long history of mission on the edges of the church. They found many immigrant children in the west who had no schooling and provided schools. They heard requests from youth who wanted to attend Triennium and provided funds. They answered a financial request from Guatemalan Mayan women for educational opportunities. Often their actions have been the forerunners of mission that later became ongoing work.

Think about your group and your congregation and decide where you fit on the grid below.

Churches that cling to the old ways that worked so well in the churched-culture will survive for a number of years. Their people will grow old together, and many of those churches will eventually die. Are you a mission outpost or a churched-culture model?

Mission Outpost	**Churched-Culture Local Church**
1. focus on the relationships	1. focus on the functions and structure
2. lives at the edge of its resources	2. conserves and holds its resources
3. in the world	3. in the church
4. fulfills life searches	4. has pleasant programs and activities
5. leadership is external and missional	5. leadership is internal and institutional
6. God's missionaries	6. hierarchy of professional ministers and laity

Discuss:
a) Which characteristics match your group?
b) Which characteristics match your congregation?
c) Which model would you like to follow?

d) How can you do that?
e) Who can help you?

f) There are several places to find Jesus' commissioning words: Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21; and John 12:32. We are more familiar with some of these than others. I suggest that you look at the last one: *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.* We are sent out over and over, but always in Jesus' name. There is a magnetic force that continually draws us to the Christ, so that all we do is in his name.

Think about your group or congregation. Think beyond the ongoing programs. Think about ministry. What is Jesus commission to you this day? How might it affect the way you do leadership, the way you meet and the mission you do or might do?

Did You Know? that the **Christian Literature Committee** of the WMS supports the mission work of the Presbyterian Church in Malawi?

The Christian Literature fund of our Society has contributed towards the cost of printing equipment in the Livingstonia synod of Malawi. To be able to print their own newsletter will help to bring together many of the churches in the rural areas of that hilly country.

Below left: Malawian men explaining the medical outreach program from the hospital in Livingstonia. Right: Girls farming near the school in Ekwendeni.

BIBLE QUIZ
by Eve Stickland

Fathers

Fathers were the most influential people in the lives of Israelite families.

1. WHO was told to sacrifice his son? ______________________ (Genesis 22:1, 2)

2. WHO was the father who fled to Egypt with his family?

__________________________ (Matthew 2:13(Genesis 4:1)

4. WHO was the father of twins? ___________________________ (Genesis 25:20, 24)

Mothers

Mothers have always played an important role in shaping the characters of their children.

1. WHO was the mother of all living people?

___________________________ (Genesis 3:20)

2. WHO gave her son into the service of the Lord?

_________________________________(1 Samuel 1:11 New English Bible)

3. WHO was the mother who looked back and became a pillar of salt?

__________________________(Genesis 19:26 New English Bible)

4. WHO was the mother highly favoured by God?

__________________________ (Luke 1:30, 31)

Scripture: New King James unless otherwise noted.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MINUTE FOR JUSTICE

Hungarian Minorities and Peace Education

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Corinthians 5: 17-18

The ministry of reconciliation is our mandate. As Christians we are bound to do what ever we can, so that peace may abound and justice flow like a river.

Due to a re-drawing of the map of East-Central Europe after World War I, almost 50% of Hungarian people live outside of modern Hungary as ethnic minorities in other countries where they often face discrimination. The Roma or Gypsy people, another ethnic minority in this part of Europe, also face discrimination, especially in areas of health, education and employment.

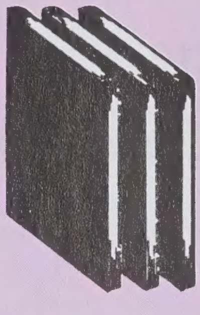
The Hungarian Reformed Churches try to be agents of reconciliation and peace. Zoltan Vass, minister of First Hungarian Presbyterian Church in Toronto, met with the leaders of the Hungarian Reformed Churches outside Hungary to propose implementing a program of Peace Education and Reconciliation in newly established and church-supported schools among ethnic minorities. Under the program, students from different ethnic groups would study together and learn how to promote peace and reconciliation.

After nearly a century of repression, there is little space for optimism. But through its schools, these churches hope to build bridges between peoples instead of erecting "dividing walls of hostility" (Ephesians 2:11).

Pray for a successful program of Peace Education and Reconciliation in the schools. Pray for the Hungarian Reformed Churches working with Hungarian minorities outside of Hungary. Pray that the work of our sister churches may lead to peace in their communities.

This **Minute for Justice** is based on *Seeking Shalom in Times of Transition* the report of the International Affairs Committee to the 127th General Assembly, June 2001. The full report is found in Acts & Proceedings 2001.

Minute for Justice may be read as a Minute for Mission, or printed as a bulletin insert or newsletter article to inform members of the international concerns of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and ask for their prayerful consideration of these matters. The text was written by Dineke Kraay, member of the International Affairs Committee as representative of the Women's Missionary Society.



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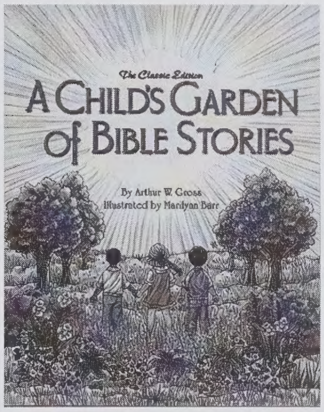
A Child's Garden of Bible Stories, The Classic Edition by Arthur W. Gross, illustrated by Marilynn Barr. Concordia Publishing House. C0666 $14.95

This is a new edition of an old favourite originally written in 1948 and has enjoyed a popular readership for more than 50 years. Today's classic version offers 60 Old and New Testament Bible stories in updated language for children ages 6 to 8. The multitude of pictures and easy reading readily makes this a favorite storybook, taken time and again off the shelf.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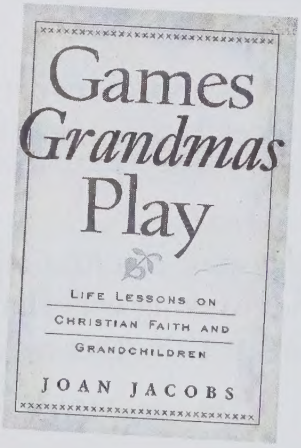


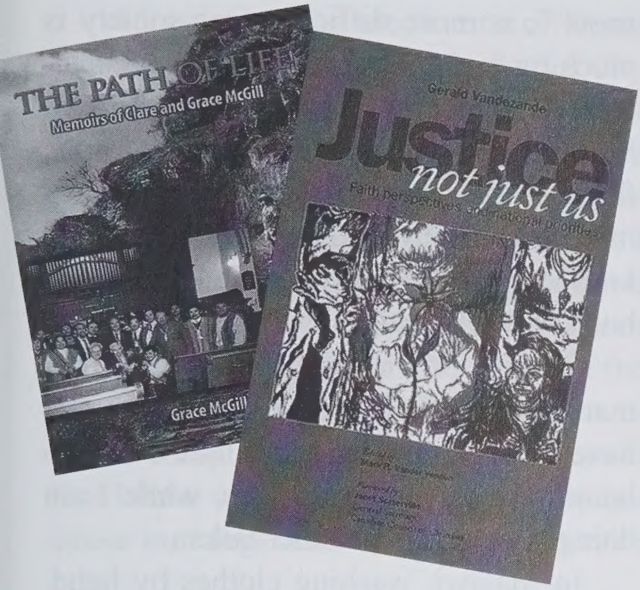
Games Grandmas Play, Life Lessons on Christian Faith and Grandchildren by Joan Jacobs, Geneva Press. G8040 $30.25

Using childhood games as a backdrop Joan Jacobs packs helpful guidance and practical advise steeped from life experience, theological training, a sense of humour and adventure. Each game is a life lesson as she encourages grandmas to nurture and teach our grandchildren skills to meet life's challenges. The special roles and relationships that come with the title 'Grandma' are explored and celebrated, in particular the role of spiritual guide. The final chapter, " God's Game Plan," advises grandmas about meeting their own challenges facing aging and death with grace and spiritual insight.

The Path of Life, Memoirs of Clare and Grace McGill by Grace McGill, Guardian Books. $12.00

After much encouragement, Grace McGill has written the memoirs of the 30 years of mission work that she and her husband, Rev. Clare McGill spent among the Tayal people in Taiwan.

This is the story of determination and dedication to translate the Bible into a language that was spoken but had no system of writing. As noted in the forward by Rev. Yabu Syat, Moderator, The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan: " Since language is so crucial to the preservation of ethnic culture and customs, the importance of the role Watan Magil played in


THE PATH OF LIFE
Memoirs of Clare and Grace McGill
Grace McGill
Gerald Vandezande
Justice
not just us
Faith perspectives and national priorities

the history and existence of the Tayal group is immeasurable... Thanks to the McGills, we are blessed to have the Word of God in our mother tongue."

Justice, Not Just Us, Faith Perspectives and National Priorities edited by Mark R. Vander Vennen, foreword by Janet Somerville. Public Justice Resource Centre G8154 $18.50
This book delivers a message that is informed, articulate and passionate - one that should be heard by all Canadians. The three chapters are three edited versions of addresses made across Canada by Gerald Vandezande, the National Public Affairs Director of Citizens for Public Justice.

The topics are child poverty, poverty in general and the final essay moves to broaden public-justice issues plaguing Canada today of which poverty is but one. The appendix contains selected correspondence with the Honourable Paul Martin, Federal Finance Minister, offered as one example of how advocacy with politicians on specific issues can take place.

Second Time Around

With you I watched the sun set at
the closing of the day.
With you I shared a Christmas
time, and danced the night away.
We walked the beach together-we
watched the children play
It took away the lonely nights and
brightened up the day.

Is it so wrong that we should find
some happiness at last,
To talk about what might have
been and dream about the past.
We'll share these times, enjoy
these days and may they
never end
I'm sure it's what God planned for
us - that you should be my friend.

Mariann Pafford

MISSION IN ACTION

Note: Prayer concerns are highlighted in bold and italics.

Jones
Kitchener, ON

It is difficult for me to believe, but I have been 'home' for more than two months now. I put the word in quotations because home is a difficult concept for me these days. I am travelling quite a bit now, speaking in different churches about the work that I did in Malawi. People often ask me "where is your home?" I feel that I should have some more definitive answer, but as I am making the transition from living in Malawi, I am just not very sure where home is.

When a Malawian inquires about 'home,' there are always two questions: "Where do you stay?" and " Where is your home (or where were you born)?" That separation makes it easier to answer. If people want to know where I am staying now, it is easy to say "In Kitchener, Ontario."

For Malawians the question of home is straightforward: home is the village you were born into. That is always home, no matter how long it has been since you lived there. For us in Canada, the concept of 'home', or the question 'where are our roots?', is more difficult. Our society is much more mobile than the Malawian culture. It is very difficult for me to call Scarborough my home. I lived there for the first eighteen years of my life, but none of my family has lived there since. I no longer know anyone who lives in the neighbourhood where I grew up. Is that 'home'?

I have come 'home' to Canada, but many things feel quite strange to me. I have trouble remembering that I can do laundry in a couple of hours, while I am doing any number of other tasks.

In Malawi, washing clothes by hand, hanging them to dry, and ironing everything (to kill the 'mputsi' flies that might have laid eggs in the clothing and would burrow under my skin looking for a place for the larva to hatch) was at least a full-day process (two or three days in the rainy season), requiring considerable time and energy on my part, if I chose to do it myself. Most often I waited for the woman who worked for me to come and take care of such things. But that meant even more planning ahead.

I also find myself needing to adjust my thinking about utilities. In Malawi, I always tried to keep a spare bucket of water in reserve for the times when there would be no water in the taps. I also had to be aware of keeping my supply of boiled filtered water for drinking sufficient for myself and any others who might drop in for a visit. I had to keep a supply of candles ready to be lit, and I always knew where the matches were, to cover the power failures that happened sometimes as often as three or four times a week. Here in Canada, I have laughed at myself, as I have thought about checking the 'emergency' supply of water or candles.

Adjusting to the mechanics of living in a society of convenience and reliability is only one aspect of the process that many people refer to as 'reverse culture shock.' People often ask me if I miss Malawi. There are many things that I miss. In Malawi, I greeted colleagues and neighbours every day, inquiring about their health and their families. Here, of the hundreds of people who live in this townhouse complex, there is only one person that I have spoken to, and that is only because our dogs insisted on greeting each other.

Intellectually I know that I left Malawi at the right time. The work that I was doing with the CCAP Women LIVING program is being capably administered by two Malawian staff, and supervised by the Women's Guild Co-ordinator. I had been away from family and friends for four years, and that separation was difficult. But in my heart, I feel a yearning for my Malawian 'home.'

One of my missionary colleagues told me, before I left Malawi, that the transition would be difficult: "It gets under your skin, and into your heart, and it will be difficult to stay in Canada." She was right. So, I suppose I have to learn to live with no 'home' - or perhaps with two homes. For now, it is time for me to resettle in my Canadian home. I believe that this is the right place for me, even as I know that a part of me will always remain in Malawi.

I have been priviledged to share the stories of my Malawian life with many people. Since returning to Canada, I have been continuing to share the stories by doing mission interpretation, speaking to many congregations and church groups around southern and eastern..

(to p 32...)

Forward in Faith

The Finance Committee has established a new fund, the " Above and Beyond Fund," to assist groups affiliated with the Women's Missionary Society to sponsor local mission projects. The fund has been approved by Council Executive in the following terms:

Amount Available: Up to $1,000 may be granted to a sponsoring body for a local mission project.

Conditions:

- The sponsoring body must be affiliated with the Women's Missionary Society.
- The sponsoring body will be encouraged to provide/seek funding for the project from other sources beyond the WMS (i.e. congregation, service groups).
- In applying for a grant, the sponsoring body will provide, in writing, a detailed account of the project (i.e. need for program, objective, length, other sources of financial support, etc.).
- The grant will be used to sponsor an area of mission work in their local community.
- The sponsoring body will be required to report in writing to the Finance Committee of the Women's Missionary Society as requested.
- Applications are to be received by January 1st and September 1st each year.

WMS Income for 2001: Givings from Presbyterials in 2001 amounted to $778,982, $3,754 more than the previous year. Our overall income of $1,053,418 increased in every area except undesignated legacies, which were extremely high in 2000. We express our appreciation to our members for their fine stewardship. God bless you.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

Ontario. I am grateful to the Presbyterian Church for providing me with these opportunities. I give thanks to God for calling me to serve the church in Malawi for the past four years, and to *Presbyterians Sharing . . .* which made my appointment possible. I pray that all of us will continue to find ways to learn from our overseas partners, and to growth in faith and service at home - wherever that is!

In service,

Heather Jones

McIntosh
#122-6040 Iona Drive
Vancouver, BC V6T 2E8

Surrounded still by the lights and love of Christmas, I am drawing to mind and paper images from this year now passing away. Many of them are far different from what Jack and I anticipated, as we said our farewells to friends and colleagues in Japan, before retiring to Canada last March.

Until shortly before boarding that plane in Osaka, we were still hoping to return together for the KCCJ's General Assembly in October. But that was not to be. Early on the morning of June 7th, Jack moved on peacefully to the "new light" he spoke of so often in those last weeks. A pastor to the end, even from his hospital bed, he challenged every one of us to a life of faithfulness, fruitfulness, commitment, and love, so that we might know, as fully as Jack did, that inner peace and joy promised by our Lord.

From my comfortable suite here at St. Andrew's Hall, I look back on this year 2001 with a thankful heart:

- For the moving expressions of love from our Japan community, especially in Kyushu and the Kansai.

Overseas Staff Birthdays

July

19 - Ian Clark, Kenya
22 - Makram Barsoum, Cyprus
31 - Jonathan Schwarz, Nepal

August

6 - Pei Kang Dai, China
9 - Ken Kim, Guatemala
9 - Aleida Villalonga, Nicaragua
11 - John Bushby, Grenada
12 - Gladys Kaye-Bushby, Grenada
18 - Betty Geddes, Taiwan
29 - Mona Barsoum, Cyprus

- For the joy of those last few days with Mira, Hideki, and Kent, then David and Maki too.
- For the last week of March in Vancouver with Janette's family, Gwyn and Tony, and the chance to finalize plans for our anticipated new post here at St. Andrew's Hall.
- For the opportunity to celebrate Easter in the warmth of our home congregation, St. Andrew's, Guelph.
- For our visits with all our brothers in April and May, and that special time with the McIntosh cousins in Elora, the day before Jack entered hospital for the last time.
- For news of Flora Mei's safe arrival on May 14, a daughter for Maki and David.
- For that unforgettable opportunity provided Jack at General Assembly to thank both the PCC and KCCJ for their

love and support over these past forty years - his last memorable challenge into which he poured his whole heart only thirty-six hours before his death.

- For the joy, in mid October, of celebrating with family and friends Gwyn and Tony's commitment at Ontario's Bark Lake. Jack's spirit was a very real presence in our midst, as Glen and Joyce Davis presided over the lakeside ceremony, surrounded by glorious autumn colours.
- For almost three weeks in Japan, travelling back with Mira's family to share memorial services in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, and Kokura, as well as a quiet visit with David to Lake Nojiri to scatter a portion of Jack's ashes in the places he had specially loved.
- And now for this wonderful new community in Vancouver, enabling the weaving together of several meaningful threads of my life. Janette, Jeff, Keilen, and Kai are merely ten minutes away by car, Gwyn and Tony only a bit farther, allowing for the quality family time Jack and I had dreamt of together. At St. Andrew's Hall, I serve as community coordinator for the thirty townhouse families, of whom thirteen are Korean and several others also from Asia.

Meanwhile, in response to a request from the Vancouver School of Theology, my help is also available to Korean students struggling to polish up the English in their papers. On the church front, I have joined West Point Grey, where Janette and Jeff are both active, along with our dear friend, Tam Corbett. A unique Japanese ministry in that congregation helps to keep that language alive for me too.

So much to be thankful for, you see. Added to Jack's legacy of love and joy, perhaps they explain the sense of peace we have known as a family during these past months. May the Lord Himself who is our source of peace give you peace at all times and in every way.

Appreciatively,
Beth

Lessard-Clouston
Japan

February 20, 2002 - "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philemon 3). We are finishing a warmer than usual winter, and though we've had many cold days the occasional snow has not stayed on the ground. Recently the weather people noted that spring has officially arrived in Japan, and the plum blossoms are appearing in our neighbourhood, so it won't be long till the cherry tree blossoms. Just as there are constants and changes in God's creation, similar things are happening in our lives, and we'd like to update you and ask for your continued prayer support.

The period since we wrote last summer has been one of the toughest for our family during our sojourn (seven years next month) in Japan thus far. World events on and after 9/11 seemed surreal in various ways, but we've also felt very isolated.

On a more personal level, Joel's difficult situation at our local Japanese primary school (which we spoke of last time) also became much worse, and greatly affected him and our whole family. After praying much and considering various options, we moved him from the end of grade two in Japanese school to the middle of grade two at a wonderful British international school in Kobe. **Please continue to pray both for Joel and for our family as we all adapt to this major change.**

As usual, December was a hectic month of Christmas activities and welcome opportunities for us to talk about Jesus and His first coming. Our weekly English chapel services continued to be well received and attended this term, but our English Bible study has had erratic attendance. We are grateful for the various chances we have to serve in Christ's name here. Whether in our classes, Bible studies, hospitality or simple routine contacts with people, like Paul in Ephesians 6:19 we ask that you would **pray for us to have the right words to somehow fearlessly make the gospel known**.

In our missionary community, the good news is that the Swiss couple who had to leave the university (due to their mission's financial problems) in early 2000 returned last October, and he serves as a missionary professor in the School of Theology. We understand that we may have other new neighbours this spring when a young Swedish missionary (with a family including young children) comes to KG high school. **Please pray both for these people and for the resulting changes in our missionary community.**

The fall term at the university has flown by and ends later this month. Michael not only taught his undergraduate English courses in the School of Economics here in Nishinomiya, but for the first time I also offered two evening (graduate) classes each week at our new branch in downtown Osaka. Overall this was a positive experience, but the new graduate program in linguistics, culture studies, and language education is only completing its first year, and is understandably undergoing various adjustments. Intellectually it is stimulating to work with some motivated graduate students, but it is also a lot more work! **Please continue to pray that I will have time to focus on and write up the rest of my doctoral research this year. Also, please pray for favour in my contacts,** both new and renewed, with various students in the new term from April.

The women's Bible Study that Wendy leads continues to be enjoyable and encouraging. What started as a study for mothers of young children now includes 11 women of various ages, with four children also attending our meetings (ages 1-4).

We have been studying women of the Old Testament, which provides opportunities to see the Bible as a whole and to relate the Old to the New Testament. Discussion continues to be lively and intense, but please **pray that these women would have open hearts rather than seeing this study as simply an intellectual exercise. Please pray for their children as well**.

Between us there are 17 children and I am attempting to provide chances for them to learn about the Bible too. At Christmas, for example, we had a birthday party for Jesus, when mothers and children celebrated together. I've also been circulating various Christian books, videos, and magazines (for both adults and kids) as people show interest.

Both Joel and Caleb seem to have grown up quickly this past year. Joel (8 in March) amazes us with his interesting insights and his ability to design and build things. He says he wants to be an engineer! **Please pray for Joel and his adjustment to an English-language**

school. May he develop good friendships and have a renewed joy in learning again.

Caleb (4) loves baseball, anything with numbers (especially money), and has a contagious enthusiasm for life. He is looking forward to starting kindergarten in April at the school connected to our Japanese church, where he already knows some of the children and teachers. Please **pray for Caleb as he adjusts to school this spring**. **Pray also for the teachers**, who will have 30 active four-year-olds in a class!

Over the next several months, we ask you to **continue to pray for Japan**. After a decade of recession, there are many social and economic challenges here, and experts anticipate huge problems and changes ahead. We hope and pray that God will use even these struggles and the current uncertainties to draw Japanese people to Himself. **Please also pray for our emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual protection.** Our struggles are not against people but against the evil powers and forces in this dark world.

Thank you for your prayers. We'd love to hear from you, and to learn how we might also pray for you.

Sincerely,
Michael & Wendy

Inglis Malawi

January 2002 - The rainy season came a little late and without much enthusiasm, so people were getting worried. About 90% of Malawians are directly involved in agriculture for their income and over 75% of the country's foreign exchange comes from a single crop - tobacco. So everyone in Malawi watches the skies and has strong opinions on the weather signs, Happily, the rains are now well established across the country and we are hoping for a decent harvest.

At present there are a lot of hungry people in Malawi. Last year saw drought in some areas and floods in others with a sharp decrease in the harvest. Sadly, the government sold off the surplus of the previous two years in a short-term grab for foreign exchange. Now imports have to be purchased at world prices. The result is that while sufficient maize stocks have been located in the region, the price is simply too high for those in need. At about C$25 for 50kg of the staple white maize (and the actual market price is often much higher) people have been reduced to buying maize husks - the 'chaff' left over from milling which normally sells as chicken feed.

The government has been quite silent on all this. The response has been mainly to exhort farmers to plant early and use every inch of land. In addition, there was some seed distribution to needy families. But basically, the Government is not able to subsidize the price of maize even in this crisis because it would upset the 'market mechanisms' which are part of the economic straightjacket (euphemistically referred to as a structural adjustment program) imposed by the International Monetary Fund/World Bank.

The eyes of the region are fixed on Zimbabwe as it undergoes a systematic demolition under President Mugabe and his pals. It is hard to over-estimate the negative impact this misguided power grab is creating. All the smaller countries of the region looked to Zimbabwe as a role model and counter-balance to the dominant influence of South Africa.

Zimbabwe has the infrastructure and educated population ready to make that beautiful country an economic success story while not neglecting basic health and education. Everyone knew the 'land problem' needed to be addressed and was looking for some leadership. However, land has become a smokescreen for massive abuse of power, the trampling of human rights and the systematic destruction of the growing civil society movement.

At the recent meeting of the South African Development Community here in Blantyre, the SADC leaders gave Mugabe a mild slap on the wrist but no sanctions were implemented. It brings up the thorny issue of national sovereignty in an inter-connected world. The NATO nations decided in Kosovo that sovereignty could not be an excuse for ignoring ethnic cleansing, as an example. Yet Mugabe is destroying a nation and so far receiving only verbal criticism. When is enough enough?

There are several other countries in Africa, which are begging for a more integrated multi-lateral approach to civil war, the abuse of power, the creation of refugees and increased misery for millions of innocent people. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and Sudan are but three nations in desperate need of peace. The question often arises: How can such desperately poor nations continue to wage war using the latest modern weapons and technology? Where does the money come from? In the post Cold War era there are no ideological points to be made, so what is the impetus for such violent and cruel civil conflicts?

It is now becoming obvious that there are powerful economic motivations for the creation and perpetuation of civil conflict. For example, it is apparent that President Mugabe has troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) not for any broad ideological or geo-political reasons, but simply because large amounts of mineral wealth are being siphoned out of the DRC for his own personal and political use.

How can a poor and tiny nation like Rwanda, which eight years ago underwent the grisly extermination of 800,000 people, conduct an active war in the DRC, a nation 30 times its size? It is only possible because valuable minerals and gems are being smuggled into Rwanda to finance the war machine. Similar situations have been documented in Sudan, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

This brings up a related question: When are the nations of the world going to consider the morality of their economic policies? There has been some action on the diamond trade, but whether it is Canadian Talisman drilling for oil in Sudan or East European thugs smuggling diamonds out of the Congo, there has been a tendency to divorce economic issues from moral considerations. Making money seems to be considered an activity above moral debate. Indeed, so much of the environmental destruction of the past 25 years hinges on this very issue. Morality, the environment, human rights, the protection of indigenous people, all these are tertiary to the big issue of generating wealth.

Our Scriptures have a lot to say about economics and morality. Of late I have been reading the Bible with economic questions in mind and am amazed at how we tend to overlook God's concern for the poor and weak, not as an issue of charity, but as a fundamental principle of justice. I have been reminded as well that Jesus spoke six times on economic issues for every single utterance about prayer. But the urgency of economic morality still seems to elude us as a central issue of our day.

For the past five years I have been Programme Manager of the Church and Society Programme of Blantyre Synod. This past year we have decided it is time to move from an education emphasis to an advocacy focus. This means developing our Presbytery Church and Society Committees to become advocates and instruments for social change at the grass roots. It is an exciting evolution targeting the critical issue of empowering people to influence the decisions that affect their everyday lives.

I have now been appointed Liaison Officer for Blantyre Synod. This means working out of the Synod Office and assisting the General Secretary in a number of areas he feels are in need of more attention-relations with partner Churches and agencies, orienting visitors to the Synod, extending care and oversight to mission personnel, and visiting the 13 Presbyteries to develop better communications and cohesiveness.

On the family front, we had a wonderful family Christmas together. Luke survived his first semester at Guelph and enjoys the university but is not too impressed with the weather. Naomi is finishing her Form 5 at St. Andrew's here in Blantyre, and will be looking ahead to two years of 'A' levels in preparation for University.

Shalom,

Glenn, Linda, Naomi in Blantyre, Jocelyn in Vancouver and Luke in Guelph

NEWS

'Bike Brigade' takes to Cuban roads

by Chris Herlinger

New York, 29 January (ENI)--Methodist clergy and missionary lay pastors in Cuba are taking to the streets of their country on two wheels thanks to a new fleet of more than 400 bicycles.

With a donation of US$40,000 raised by Methodists in the United States and elsewhere, the clergy are expanding their evangelistic reach in a country where car ownership is relatively rare and bicycles are a major form of transport.

"A pastor on foot can go to one mission. One with a bicycle can go to two or three missions," said Bishop Ricardo Pereira Diaz of the Methodist Church in Cuba, quoted by the United Methodist News Service (UMNS).

The creation of the Methodist "bike brigade" comes at a time of increased interest in religion in Cuba. Though its constitution still describes it as a secular state, Cuba has witnessed a flourishing of religious expression in recent years.

According to some estimates, at least 600,000 Christians regularly worship in Cuba. Most are Catholics, but the nation's Protestant churches are also showing signs of strength: the Methodist Church, for example, reports its membership has doubled in the past two years, to 16,000.

Survey Lauds Volunteers

by Andreas Havinga

Amsterdam, 24 January (ENI)--The hours worked by volunteers in the two biggest

Protestant denominations in The Netherlands are equivalent to having an extra 11 full-time clergy per congregation, according to the findings of a recent survey.

The survey was commissioned by the country's biggest Protestant body, the Uniting Protestant Churches (UPC) in The Netherlands, which groups three churches: the Netherlands Reformed Church (NHK), the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (GKN) and the smaller Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Kingdom of the Netherlands (ELK).

The survey of the two Reformed denominations found that, on average, 114 volunteers were active in each congregation, spending an average of four hours per week on voluntary activities such as producing church newsletters, participating in youth and children's work and serving as church elders.

The findings were based on responses from 123 congregations; questionnaires had been sent to 197 churches.

If the results of the survey were extrapolated across all congregations, the two denominations would count a total of 280,000 volunteers.

Almost all volunteers are confirmed church members. Each volunteer has been active in voluntary work for 15 years, on average, and in their current role for more than seven years.

Over the past two years the number of volunteers in the two Reformed denominations increased by almost 14,500 - an increase of more than five per cent over that period. For the NHK, the figures represent a 40 per cent increase over those from a previous survey, conducted 23 years ago.

In a statement, the UPC described the findings of the survey, published at the end of last year, as " surprising, given the general perception that volunteers are hard to find."

The survey also identified a shift in the nature of volunteer work, away from content-based activities and toward more technical tasks.

Volunteers are becoming less involved in community work, Christian education and child care, and increasingly preoccupied with financial, administrative and secretarial work.

About 40 per cent of the volunteers surveyed see the roles of clergy as those of coach, manager, motivator and adviser.

While most work in Sunday schools is undertaken by women, financial and administrative tasks are mainly dealt with by men. Otherwise, the survey found no differences in the kind of work being handled by women and men, according to the survey's author, Gert de Jong.

The survey was carried out in August 2001 by the Catholic Social Church Institute (KASKI), based in Nijmegen.

The survey was conducted in the context of the naming, by the United Nations, of 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers.

Glad Tidings Salutes Volunteers

In a surprise presentation at the Council Executive meeting on February 20, four special people were recognized. June Stevenson, editor of Glad Tidings, praised the work of volunteers for their efforts on behalf of the magazine. Jean Rankine and Lorna Teare were thanked especially for their readings of the Glad Tidings on tape

Glad Tidings volunteers left to right: Marjorie Miller and Lorna Teare admire medals while Florence Ross and Jean Rankine look on.

for the visually impaired. Marjorie Miller and Florence Ross were thanked for their proofreading of each issue. Florence has also helped with the tape ministry and large print issue.

In the spirit of the Olympic games going on at the time, June presented each volunteer with a pewter medal from the Royal Canadian Mint in recognition of the Year of the Volunteer 2001.

1,200 Attend APCE

The APCE conference was held February 6-9, 2002 in the heart of Toronto, Ontario. It opened with resounding worship involving an enthusiastic gathering of 1,200 participants from across Canada and the United States. There were more than 300 Canadian participants in the APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) conference. The large contingent of Canadians was possibly due to the fact that this is the first time in many years that the international convention is being held in Canada. On average, about 30 Canadians normally attend the conference.

It was held in the spacious Sheraton Centre Hotel in the heart of the city, one of only a few hotels large enough to accommodate such a large crowd.

Opening worship took place Wednesday afternoon in the grand ballroom. The music was led by Rev. John Bell, who is music leader of the Iona Community in Scotland. He was able to transform the conference participants into an impressive choir. Daily worship services were led by Rev. Marion Barclay, who is co-minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Calgary, AB and who has had a long history in church education; Dr. Herbert O'Driscoll, who is a respected television and radio personality, author and exceptional speaker; and by Rev. Bell, who is known for his creative musical talents as a hymn-writer and pianist.

Conference participants were able to choose from among 117 workshops. They were exposed to the Marketplace, a gathering of 30 denominational and parachurch displays, as well as an extensive Book Room staffed and organized by The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its Women's Missionary Society.

Hard working staff of The Book Room were saluted at Council Executive. Left to right Susan Clarke, Judith Marnoch, Gerry Waugh and Laurie Elsden.

Welcome
to
Book Room

In the Society

Presbyterial

Paris Presbyterial Annual meeting was held on January 19th at Alexandra Church, Brantford with Presbyterial President Jackie Cruickshank presiding over the meeting. The theme for the day was Partners...Meeting Friends...in Brantford....in Malawi. Guest speaker, Rev. Heather Jones' talk and slides about her mission work over the past five years in Malawi brought an awareness of just how important our partnership is with the women in Malawi.

Rev. Kathryn Strachan, host minister, installed the officers. A Life Membership certificate was presented to retiring treasurer Margaret Chesney, as a thank you for her many years of service as Presbyterial treasurer.

A highlight of the year 2001 was a bus trip on October 17th for members and friends to Toronto. Visits were made to St. Andrews, Simcoe Street " Out of the Cold" program, Evangel Hall and Knox College.

Nursery & Church School

Heather Jones has been busy with deputation since her return to Canada.

West Toronto Presbyterial held its 88th Annual Meeting at Runnymede Church, Toronto on February 16, 2002. The theme was *Each one should use whatever gift they have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms* (1Peter 4:10).

Rev. Suzanne Rescorl welcomed everyone to Runnymede. President, Carolyn Jones constituted the meeting and led in the Call to Worship. Greetings were brought from East Toronto Presbyterial. Devotions were taken by members of Bonar-Parkdale WMS. Following business and a review of the Annual Report, the literature Secretary reported on some offerings from the Book Table. Elizabeth Heath introduced speaker, Jean Dancey, who spoke of her experiences on the recent Mission Tour of Mozambique. An Honorary Membership was presented to Eleanor Dean from last year's recipient, Madge Cooper.

Following a lovely lunch by Runnymede women, Rev. Wayne Wardell, Moderator of West Toronto Presbytery brought greetings. The Officers for 2002 were installed by Rev. Lynda Reid. For the first time, our Annual Meeting was closed with Communion, led by Rev. Lynda Reid, assisted by four WMS members who are elders. Carolyn Jones thanked Lynda and Jean for their participation, and thanked everyone for coming.

The 88th Annual meeting of **Montreal** Presbyterial was held at the Taiwanese Robert Campbell Church, Montreal, Quebec on March 09, 2002. Presiding was President Genevieve Holding. Maureen Baxter welcomed us and gave the history of the church. The devotions were led by Anita Mack and the Taiwanese Youth provided music which was very much appreciated. There was business and reading of reports.

Peggy Wegrich led in an exercise break. Lois Klempa introduced guest speaker Rev. Roberta Clare. Her theme was " We are the church." Thanking our speaker was Dixie McBride.

After lunch a sing-along was led by Verna Medina; pianist for the day was Cynthia Ko. Roberta Clare had a program on the reflections of words of hymns and how they relate to God. Courtesies were given by Lorna Smith.

Grace Thornley-Brown gave the nominating committee report. Roberta Clare installed the officers for 2002-3 and gave the benediction.

Vancouver Island Presbyterial held their annual meeting February 19, 2002, in Knox, Sooke B.C.

Kathy Ball, Educational Ministries Coordinator, informed the members of some of her work: the current mission study, and of the BC Synodical's 1st edition newsletter.

Left to right: Winnifred Roseborough, Charlotte Farris and Agnes Hislop at Knox, Sooke.

Rev. Robert Calder, minister of Knox, Sooke, presented an outline of activities and goals relating to youth camping at Vancouver Island Presbyterian Camps.

In attendance were four diaconal ministers: Flora Whiteford who lastly served in the Victoria area; Winnifred Roseborough who also served in Victoria; Agnes Hislop who for over 30 years was in India, and Charlotte Farris who served in Port Credit Church, Ontario.

Bread for the Journey was the theme for the annual meeting of **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial held in St. Andrew's, Stratford, ON.

With Shirley Aitcheson, Avonton, presiding, the program began with the WMS Purpose, the Lord's Prayer, and a welcome by Mary Duffin.

Following the theme, Robina Alexander, Britton, demonstrated the making of 60% whole wheat bread which was enjoyed along with soup at the noon lunch. Lois Horne, North Easthope, reviewed books available from the book table, also the video, Who's Counting? based on the mission study for this year.

Jean Evans, Motherwell-Avonbank, read the previous annual minutes. Correspondence secretary, Lois Kipfer, Stratford, read a letter thanking the Presbyterial for articles sent to Evangel Hall in Toronto. The treasurer's report was given by Margaret Peebles, Atwood.

The afternoon program began with devotions by Atwood with Jean Ballantyne reading scripture, Margaret Peebles giving a meditation on Bread, and Pat Hogerwaard leading in prayer. Evelyn Matthison and Verna Strathdee, Avonton, presented an In Memoriam. Shirley Aitcheson added a tulip for each former member to a flower basket arrangement.

Eleanor Richman, Cromarty, introduced guest speaker, Lillian Sparling, Staffa, ON. Lillian returned in the fall from teaching a senior girls' school in Malawi. Wearing a dress made from Malawian material, she told of situations and problems of the women of Malawi.

AIDS is a big problem and orphans are often raised by extended families and many children are raised by a mother only. There is a great need for teachers, especially ones who can stay for a whole year. Primary education is free and compulsory but it is difficult to get a basic High School education. Ruth Ward, Monkton, thanked the speaker.

Jean Edmunds gave the nominating committee's report and installed the officers for 2002. Courtesy remarks were given by Barbara Tubb, St. Marys.

Peterborough Presbyterial Annual Meeting was held at St. Paul's, Peterborough, ON. The theme was *Serve the Lord - We can Pray* (James 5:16).

Registration and coffee was followed by a musical gathering led by Jackie Kelly with Helen King on the piano.

President Joan Smith welcomed everyone and the worship service was given by Port Hope. Rev. George Turner welcomed us to St. Paul's and Doreen Dath of Belleville, 1st Vice President of Toronto and Kingston Synodical, also brought greetings.

President Joan Smith constituted the meeting. The minutes of the 2001 annual meeting were approved followed by the Treasurer's report by Jean Coull.

We were favoured with two musical numbers by the Ladies' choir of St. Paul's. We divided into five groups and the Bible study was " We can Pray" . The discussion was very informative with different views presented by group members.

Pat Ross of Norwood presented a very interesting review on five books available at the book display.

A delicious lunch was prepared by the women of St. Paul's.

After lunch we had another musical gathering followed by the " In Remembrance Service" presented by Jean Coull of Cobourg.

Pauline Garvey, Bowmanville presented the nominating report and the officers were installed by Doreen Dath.

Muriel Bell, our new President, presented Joan Smith with an Honorary Life Membership. Courtesies were given by Margaret Taylor of Hastings. We were led in meditation and communion by Rev. Lynda Reid, assisted by four women Elders.

The Annual Meeting of **Westminster** Presbyterial was held at St. John's Church, White Rock, on February 13, 2002. *The Power of Christian Hope* was the theme.

The Rev. Allen Aicken, Interim Minister at St. John's, led in the opening worship, a " Meditation of Discipleship" using Jan Sutch Pickards " Rock and Stumbling Block" with emphasis on Ash Wednesday and events leading to the Cross.

Sheila Jakus, Presbyterial President, constituted the meeting with prayer and the printed reports were perused and commented upon.

Greetings from Synodical were given by the President Betty Siverns who later installed the new slate of officers.

An In Memoriam meditation was given by Molly Doka.

Following lunch Ernestine Allan led in a hymn sing.

Guest speaker, the Rev. Grant Wilson of Fairview Church, Vancouver, was introduced by Margaret Walker. He told of his trip to Cambodia where a small orphanage had been built by money donated by members of his congregation. His colourful slides give a vivid story of the plight of children whose parents had died and left them homeless. Many more such orphanages are needed and with the help of the Australian Church plans are going ahead to make it possible. A special offering was received to help that area in Africa.

Our President thanked the speaker and also the women who had sewed together small squares for an afghan while they had listened to the reports in the morning. The finished afghan will be sent to the orphanage in Cambodia.

Following the closing prayer a time of fellowship was enjoyed.

Brockville Presbyterial held their annual meeting at Knox, Morrisburg, February 7, 2002.

The host group led worship on the theme *Sharing the Gift*. Rosa Parks' contribution to the beginning of desegregation was an example of how one person has made a difference for justice.

Outgoing president of Synodical of Quebec and Eastern Ontario presented a proposal to give greater representation to the western provinces.

Area Co-ordinator Christine Ball was introduced. She had formerly worked at Flora House and in team work with her minister husband. She and her family live in Ottawa. She led Bible study on giving cheerfully (based on 2 Corinthians 9:6-15).

Literature Secretary Catherine Blatch made a lending library available. Donna Wilson played a Millionaire game with the members.

Ventnor led afternoon worship. They reminded us that donations of Canadian goats have made a difference in the future of the people of Nicaragua.

Judy Messenger led a memorial service remembering Margaret Gilbert, Alberta Koolwine, Isobel Feeley and Violet Wilson.

Rev. Marion Johnston installed the officers.

This Is My Father's World was the theme of **Sarnia** Presbyterial Annual Meeting 2001, held in Petrolia Church on January 19, 2002.

President Anna Jean McCoskery opened the meeting with prayer and the minister of the church, the Rev. Dean Adlam welcomed everyone.

Fleur Eenkhoorn introduced our new Area Educational Consultant, the Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, who conducted the Bible Study "Caring For Creation" and introduced the 2001-2002 Mission Study.

Annual Reports were reviewed and highlights were given. The In Memoriam Service which had been prepared by Betty Hetherington was given by the President.

Money was raised by donations for the Pasei Village Water Project and Nurse Education, Myanmar Mission.

The Nominating Committee Report was given by Joyce Trapp. It had been prepared by the Mooretown and Petrolia installed by Anne Yee-Hibbs.

The play "Rainbow World" produced

by Ten Days for Global Justice was presented. It encourages education and action for social change around the world.

Discussion Moderator, Marion Perrie helped us to realize that we must be responsible, care for and preserve what we have for future generations. The earth and its fullness is a gift from God and we are called to nurture and provide stewardship for resources and people.

Closing devotions "Renewal Of The Earth" were taken by the Ruth MacLean Auxiliary members. They stated that we commit ourselves to personal renewal through prayer, meditation and study. We promise to be responsible participants in a community of faith. After planting a small seed we are going to care and nurture this plant as an example of our stewardship.

Local

A long time member of the WMS (President twice, now Secretary) **Gladys W. Hepburn**, was honoured at a Pot Luck Supper on February 9 in **Fairview Church**, **Vancouver**, BC by the choir, with a special song in her honour and a bouquet of flowers, to commemorate 70 years of faithful service in the choir and as a member of Fairview. (Gladys joined February 1932.)

Marie Luttrell, charter member of **St. Giles' Presbyterian Churhe, Prince George**, British Columbia, passed away peacefully on November 24th, 2001 in Red Deer, Alberta.

Marie was a long-time member of Presbyterian Women at St. Giles' and a life member of WMS for many years. She led a life of service to her church, WMS and to the community where she worked as a public health nurse for many years before she retired.

Marie Luttrell

Marie moved to Red Deer, Alberta in August, 2001 to be closer to her family when her health was failing.

She was predeceased by her husband, Ken, and is survived by her son John (Lucie), daughters Wendy (Jim Jeat) and Nancy (Ron Macleod) and three grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at St. Giles' on November 27th, 2001 with Rev. Rod Ferguson officiating.

Mrs. **Mary Penney,** a valued Life Member of the Evening Auxiliary of the WMS of **St. Andrew's Church, Kingston**, died on November 25, 2001.

She was a beloved, loyal, gentle and wise friend; to know her was an honour and a privilege. Her wisdom, sense of justice, good humour and deep understanding of the Scriptures were evident to our Society, as she led worship and study sessions, and often guided us in business procedures.

She set an example to be emulated, as she fulfilled her duties with graciousness and perception as convenor of Friendship and Service, a position she held for many years. Numerous members and families in our congregation benefited from her empathy which resulted in generous acts

Mary Peney

of kindness. She wrote letters of congratulations on happy events, of condolences upon sorrow, and sent many cards at Easter, Christmas, and on other occasions. Her visits to friends and families were frequent, and always appreciated, as she was truly a messenger of God's love.

In Proverbs 31, we read " Who can find a virtuous woman? Her price is far above rubies." We found such a woman in our friend, Mary Penney, and give thanks for her long, fruitful life, and that she is now at rest with her Lord whom she served so faithfully.

One of God's special people passed away in January, 2002. The funeral for **Darlene Jones** was held on the 9th of February, in the church which she had made her spiritual home for many years, **St. Columba Presbyterian Church, in Vancouver.**

Darlene was a unique individual. She was blind, but was not born blind. She was one of twelve children in a large caring family living in Clearbrook B.C. At her funeral, one of her nieces made everyone laugh by telling some of the stories about her aunt's childhood and teen age years. How for example, when they played hide and seek, they made her cover her eyes when she was " it" , how one day she climbed a cherry tree and forgot how she did it, so some one had to go up and get her.

Harry McClelland spoke of Darlene who visited his and his wife Margaret's home frequently, and told how one day she asked where the bathroom was. He escorted her to the room, and turned on the light, then remembered that Darlene didn't need the light so turned it off. Looking at the darkened room, he said, he realized that this was what Darlene saw all the time.

Rev. Fred Metzger, long time pastor of St. Columba Church, now retired, spoke of his contacts with both Darlene and her late husband Paul Jones, who was crippled by polio as a child. The emotion they shared he said, was true love. Paul was Darlene's eyes, and Darlene was his legs.

Darlene was secretary for a number of years for the Grace Stewart WMS of St. Columba Church, carrying her tape recorder to the meeting and transcribing what she heard into minutes for the meeting. She was a fiercely independent person, working in the office of the RCMP in Vancouver for many years.

During the latter years she acquired a "seeing eye" dog named B.J. B.J. used to accompany her to church, sprawling in the middle of the aisle during services so that everyone had to step over her.

Darlene was naturally musical. She had perfect pitch, and sang in the choir. She played several instruments - the accordian, guitar, dulcimer.

She loved to sing and had a wide repertoire of both spiritual and other songs, including comic songs which she loved to sing.

We miss Darlene from our midst, but

know that she is happy with her Lord Jesus Christ and that she will have met her beloved Paul, whom she missed more than anyone else knew.

Sleep well Darlene, and know that we loved you.

Written by Kay Berry, Richmond BC

His Love

It was His love, His precious love
That He gave at Calvary.
It was His love, God's
precious love
That set this prisoner free.

Jolene Eby

Order:

From the other side of the Bed

Advertised on p 38 March/April Glad Tidings
Correct web address is
annestirling.com/book

Millennium Quilt Exhibit 2002

Apr 26-May 6 - St.Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St. Lambert, Quebec
May 13-27 - Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Schomberg, Ontario
June 5-19 - First Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay, Ontario
June 26-July 3 - Forbes Presbyterian Church, Grande Prairie, Alberta

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

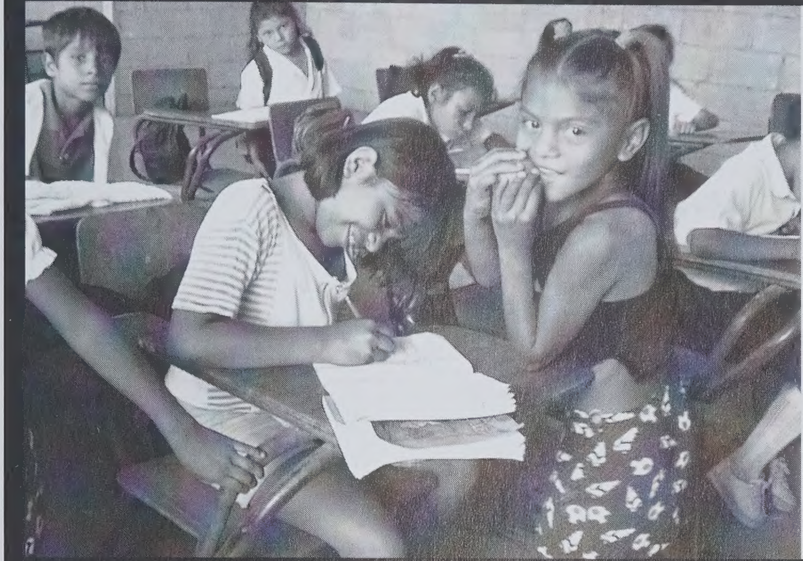
There are a couple of things that would make my job easier.

1) As soon as you have a change in Glad Tidings secretary/contact person, please let us know in the office as soon as possible. This will ensure that we send the summer mailing to the appropriate person. In August we mail information to these people who are to follow up on the Glad Tidings subscriptions and promote the magazine within the congregation (not just to WMS groups).

2) Please let us know if your group has disbanded or combined with another group. Sometimes when we mail the summer mailing, we discover that this change has occurred. Therefore, I end up having to follow-up by indicating that we still need to receive the subscription lists because we need the information.

Please let us know by the end of June to whom we should send the Glad Tidings summer mailing.

Thank you to the Christian Literature Fund for providing funds to help cover the costs for producing the Large Print issue of Glad Tidings magazine. The large print is available to those who have difficulty reading the regular sized print of the magazine. If you know of someone who could benefit from this, please let us know.



We can make a difference!

Your donations to PWS&D help support education programs in Nicaragua, El Salvador, India, Malawi, and Ghana. These young students are the leaders of tomorrow.

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr. Toronto ON M3C 1J7 tel: 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301
pwsd@presbyterian.ca www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Lorraine Kilburn
Almonte, ON

Mrs. Marion F. Thomas
Knox, Belmont, ON
(Formerly from Tempo Church)

Mrs. Marie Gress
Knox, Calgary AB

Jean Carey
Cromarty, ON

Mrs. Jean Elizabeth Ford
St. Paul's, Eckville, AB

Rev. J. Murray Laurenson
St. Andrew's, Fergus, ON

Mary Isabel Crow
Isobel Williamson
St. Andrew's, Guelph, ON

Elizabeth " Bessie" Coleman
Hilda Tottle
St. Columba, Hamilton, ON

Mrs. Norris (Mary) Napper
Jarvis, ON

Jean D. Knell
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON

Mrs. Massey Fukushima
Formerly Hamilton Rd, London, ON

Mrs. Gladys Felker
Molesworth, ON

Helen Rutherford
Orillia, ON
(formerly Central Church, Hamilton, ON)

Helen Campbell
Knox, Crescent, Kensington & First, Ottawa, ON

Mrs. Mae Cumming
Westminster, Paisley, ON

Mrs. Grace Jackson
St. Andrew's Memorial, Port Credit, ON

Mrs. Margaret McDonald
Mrs. Edith Widdis
Knox, Teeswater, ON

Mrs. Erma Davison
Knox, Vankleek Hill, ON

Mrs. Margaret Inglis
Mrs. Marguerite Patterson
Knox, Walkerton, ON

Molly Stewart
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON
(wife of Dr. Findlay Stewart, [deceased] former minister at St. Andrew's, Kitchener, and also Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in 1956)

Mrs. Jennie May Bryan
Mrs. Pam Young
Knox, Woodstock, ON

Elizabeth Bradley
Rev. Mac McLean
Rev. William Palmer
St. John's, Winnipeg, MB

Our Apple Tree

After the storm
last fall,
our old tree was left
bowed and bent,
gnarled and twisted
and seemingly
had lost out on life,
a life so fruitfully spent.

And yet
one sunny morning
early that very next spring
she burst once again
into glorious showers
of silvery white flowers.
That stately dowager
had staunchly defied fate
and her fierce courage
made all of us
once again sing.

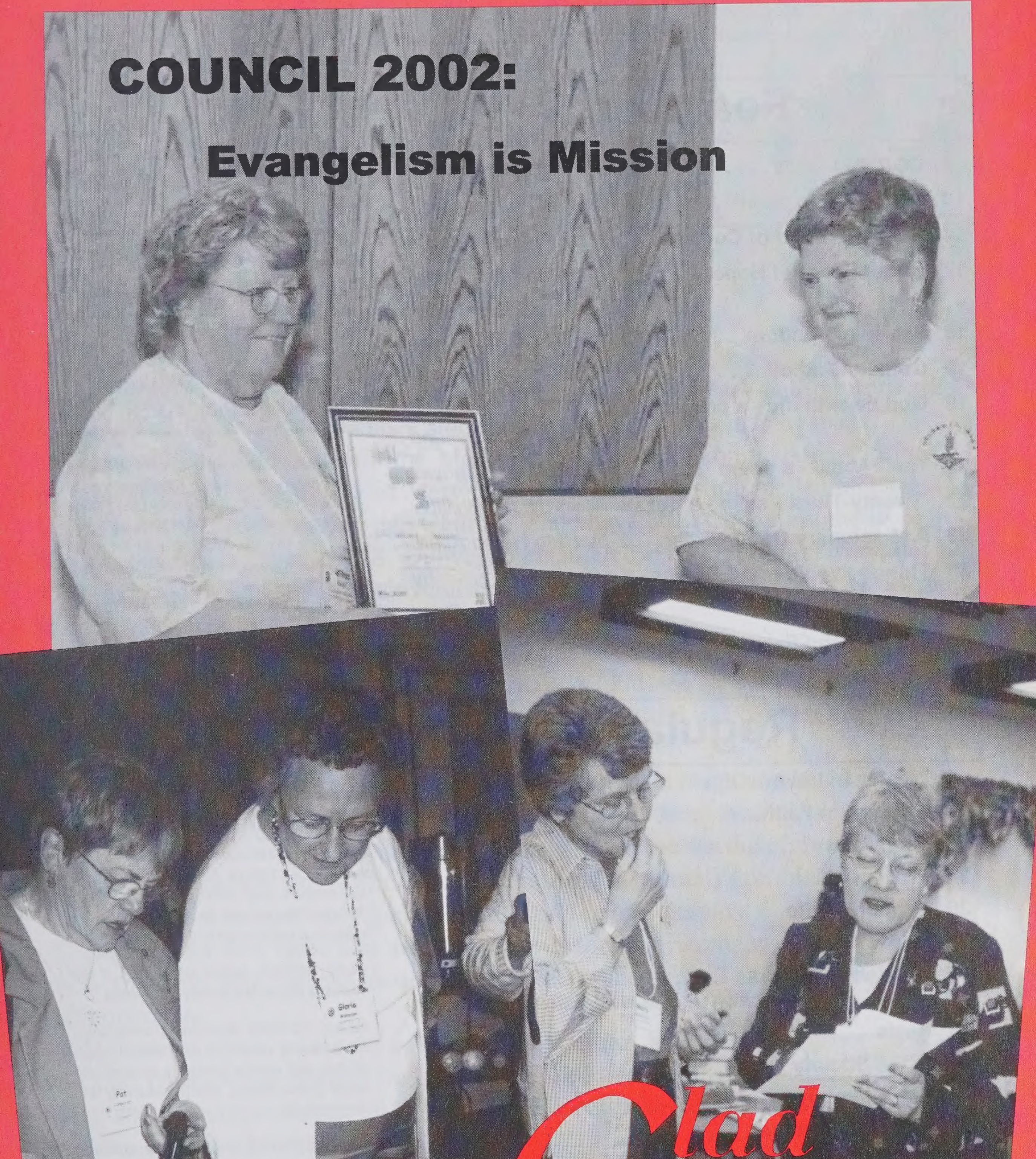
Lini Richarda Grol

Glad Tidings is printed
on recycled paper

Please report any errors/changes in address.

COUNCIL 2002:

Evangelism is Mission



Glad Tidings

July/August 2002

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Cover Photos: Left to right—top Wilma Welsh and Joanne Instance; Bottom left Pat Carpenter and Gloria Wasacase; bottom right Mary Moorhead and Lynda Reid.

Council Photos by Katherine Allen, Margaret Robertson, Florence Ross and L. June Stevenson

Glad Tidings

July/August 2002
Volume 78, No. 4

EDITOR
L. JUNE STEVENSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER
KATHERINE ALLEN

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

June 2002

The Buck Stops Here!

Harry Truman once said, “When the decision is up before you—and on my desk I have a motto which says ‘The buck stops here’—the decision has to be made.”

There were a few errors in the May/June 2002 Glad Tidings. After “losing” a photo and getting another one of Mary Penny, her name was misspelled on page 45. On page 44, St. Giles Presbyterian Churhe should have been Church. In the issue before on page 46 Kenyon WMS, Dunvegan celebrated its 125th anniversary, not its 12th! My apologies for any inconvenience or discomfort these and other errors may have caused.

As editor, the final responsibility for the magazine rests with me. The printers had assured me they would make some changes and see that the final copy was proofed while I went to an out-of-town meeting. That did not happen. So the buck stops here.

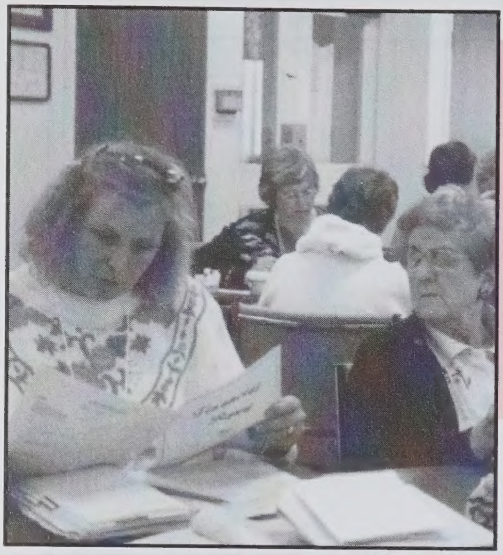
The circulation process did not go so well either. The magazine had just gone to the Post Office when we heard some 60 copies hadn’t been mailed. See Katherine Allen’s column “Circulation News” on page 46 for more on this. Some people got their copies from the Post Office almost immediately while I got mine three weeks after it had been mailed. Go figure! We are working on solutions.

Our list for this issue has already gone to the label company and we already know that less than twenty names were rejected this time. That’s a change in the right direction.

Be sure to check your own address label carefully, and please be generous when you find errors while reading the magazine. We have wonderful technology around today and sometimes things go wrong there. We also have wonderful human beings working with us who may miss things too.

Meanwhile, the work goes on. Both Katherine and I are looking forward to summer holidays. Before September there is another magazine to get out and the summer mailing for local Glad Tidings secretaries to get started on their promotion in the fall. We are truly thankful for air-conditioning in the office these days to keep us cool.

A happy summer to all of you.

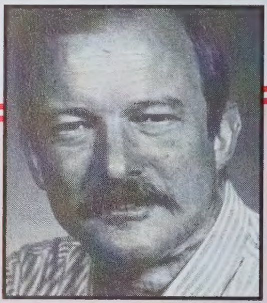


87th Annual COUNCIL Meeting

May 5-8, 2002

Evangelism is Mission

Crieff Hills Community, Puslinch, Ontario



01 May, 2002

WMS Council Meeting at Crieff Hills

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I write you both as Moderator of the General Assembly and as a member of our overseas staff. As Moderator, I want to assure you of the gratitude of the whole of the Church. As a missionary, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support: financial, spiritual, and personal. Not only does that support make our mission possible, it also makes it a joy.

In preparation for this year's General Assembly, I have been re-reading the Acts and Proceedings. Not a task for the faint of heart!

One thing that comes through loud and clear is the commitment of our mission societies and of their members. How many of God's children have life because of your work? How many have life at all? Only God knows but I hope that you feel the Spirit within each and every one of you. What a ministry you have!

We all know that the WMS and the AMS face "hard times". Membership declines, auxiliaries close, people are discouraged.

Several weeks ago, I was at home in Managua. A street child reached up to wash my windshield while I was stopped at a traffic light, and I handed her an orange. It symbolized our love, our wanting to hear her story. I hope that she understood that I love her because God in Christ loved me. The WMS made that orange possible. Thank you.

I look forward to the future of ministering together with all of you.

Yours faithfully,
Joe Reed,
Moderator, 127th General Assembly

Sunday May 5, 2002

Engage - Come All Who Are Weary

Gathering

The grass was greening and the earth beginning to warm as delegates to the 87th Annual Council Meeting of the Women's Missionary Society gathered at Crieff Hills Community near Guelph, Ontario.

A festive turkey dinner set the tone for the opening session. Music leaders Lois Snider-Norby and Margaret Wilson welcomed everyone at the conference hall where the meetings were held. (Lynda Reid also helped to lead music later in the meetings.)

Table centrepieces created by member of Council Executive and convener of Council planning, Florence Ross had everyone "buzzing": bright yellow bees with black stripes and legs, held little signs with the table numbers.

The bees were accompanied by a poem written by Florence.

President Joanne Instance welcomed everyone and opened the evening program with prayer.

Overheard: The WMS is an amazing bunch of ladies!

The Bumblebee

A bumblebee can't possibly fly
At least that's what I've heard
The scientists say it's ridiculous
The idea's quite absurd
Its wings are small, its muscles weak
Its body much too round
In fact it's far too heavy
To get above the ground
But no one's told the bumblebee
So much to our surprise
Aerodynamics not being his thing
He's wise so he tries and he flies.

Florence Ross

Worship

Alberta and the Northwest Synodical led worship with a skit that encouraged delegates to "rest" from the stresses of life. Worship was followed by table discussions of the question: What would you be doing at home if you weren't here at Crieff?

Margaret Robertson invited a panel to share their experiences in the WMS and how the WMS has impacted on their lives.

The panel consisted of Merle McGowan, Saskatoon, Jean Dancey, Oshawa, Ontario, Gloria Wasacase, Brantford, Ontario, Joanne Instance, Winnipeg, and Sarah Kim, Executive Secretary WMS. Each woman has had an interesting and different experience.

Merle worked in British Guiana (now Guyana) during the time the WMS hired and sent missionaries. She learned what it means to be in a minority.

Jean was born in a manse and always knew about the WMS. She received a Life Membership when she was about 15 years old.

Gloria spoke of early exposure to the WMS at Vacation Bible School. Later she worked for the WMS as a teacher in Birtle and Cecilia Jeffrey Residential Schools.

Left to right: Merle, Jean, Gloria, Joanne and Sarah share their experiences with the WMS on the Sunday evening.

She especially remembers the bales of clothing and presents that WMS groups sent.

Joanne also knew the WMS early with Sunday School, mission band, Explorers, and CGIT. She has had ecumenical exposure by representing the WMS on the Women's Inter-Church Council.

Sarah Kim is new to the WMS. As minister at Albion Gardens, Etobicoke, she observed WMS work. What she saw was a huge group of women engaged in leadership. It was an empowering experience for a younger, ethnic woman. When the position for Executive Secretary was advertised she knew she wanted to be part of this dynamic group.

Table discussion included "snacks in a jar"—cheese, grapes, and loaf cakes—with skewers.

Monday May 6, 2002

Evangelize—Come to the Banquet

Members of Southwestern Ontario Synodical started the morning session off with a humorous skit based on the Parable of the Great Dinner (see photo below).

Monday's bible study leader Margaret Robertson, using Luke 14:1-9, asked "What are we inviting people to?" Things to consider included knowing when people are ready, what their gifts are, being there when they need you, and knowing yourself before you invite others into your group. "Don't sweat the small stuff" or worry about unimportant things.

Mission Presentation - Taiwan

Wilma Welsh, International Ministries, Life and Mission Agency, joined Joanne Instance in a presentation of their joint experience at the 130th anniversary of evangelism in Taiwan. Wilma shared the story of George Leslie Mackay, who went to Taiwan in 1872 and who established hospitals, churches and schools. He is remembered fondly by the people there for his concern about the whole person. His contribution to the Taiwanese people has been recognized by the government.

Wilma, who retires this year, was

presented with a Life Membership. Joanne gave Wilma her pin which she had received from her own group in Winnipeg.

Regional Staff

On the Monday afternoon, Regional staff that were present introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their work.

Wayne Menard, an ordained minister, has recently moved to Calgary to take over regional ministries for Alberta and the Northwest. Wayne has been helping congregations through transitions, doing evangelism and promoting the work of the church.

Kathy Ball is Coordinator of Educational Ministries for British Columbia. She does strategic planning for the WMS. One of her biggest challenges is the large geographical area of B.C.

Anita Mack has been working as regional staff for the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario. One of the recent highlights of her work was Youth Triennium 2001 which 27 people from Quebec attended.

Christine Ball's work includes three presbyteries/presbyterials in the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario. She works mainly with congregations in Christian education, curriculum and workshops for laity.

Anne Yee-Hibbs, formerly minister at nearby Duff's, Puslinch, and now Area Educational Consultant for Southwestern Ontario, was chair of the planning committee of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) held this year in Toronto. Anne is a descendant of Chinese immigrants who were welcomed and assisted by the WMS.

Margaret Wilson is completing her seventh year in the Synod/Synodical of Saskatchewan. She works with groups of all ages in camping, Native ministries, elder training, and particularly with WMS at all levels.

Lynda Reid, Toronto-Kingston is one of a team of three within a synod of 298 congregations. Together they are doing a newsletter, Karux, and planning workshops for synod meetings. Lynda works especially with the WMS in helping to plan meetings, with study, Teacher Learning Courses and Han-Ca East Presbyterial.

Almost ready!

History Text

The updated history book "Certain Women Amazed Us" is scheduled to be ready for the November 2002 Council Executive meeting. Writers Rosemary Doran and Lois Klempa and editor Margaret Robertson were commended for this labour of love.

Left: Susan Clarke discusses new titles with Ian Morrison.

Video

The most recent draft of Still Moving was previewed and some changes suggested. The video will go into final production soon!

Books

Susan Clarke encouraged delegates not only to buy books for others but also for themselves. She compared the book table to a dessert table and declared The Book Room a calorie-free zone. Sales at APCE totaled over $100,000.

Resolutions

Resolutions approved included:
That the By-Laws be changed to state that the Council Executive be composed of not more than seventeen elected members, and the President of each Synodical, ex-officio, with vote.

That the matter of representation on the Council Executive be referred to the Constitution and By-Laws Task Force for consideration.

That the 87th Annual Council meeting approve the spending of some of the WMS's invested funds to support National and International projects of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

That Council Executive appoint a Task Force to study areas of need and report their recommendations to the Fall Council Executive meeting.

That we commit $390,000 to regional staff to the end of 2004, and that we discuss any further financial commitment after the full report of the Regional Staffing Review Committee is received.

Mission Presentation - Malawi

Heather Jones, former missionary to Malawi, shared enthusiastically her work in Livingstonia Synod. Heather helped the women establish a hand-stitched greeting card business which allows women to make a decent wage. The women's guilds do fundraising for the church and assist families particularly those taking care of AIDS orphans. The Synod does significant work in some 500 schools.

Below left to right: Heather, Barbara and Karen illustrate how agencies of the church work together in mission.

Get Involved!

- *Something Extra
- *Canadian FoodGrains Bank
- *Twinning
- *Exposure Tours
- *Advocacy

Morning Watch

This year's material was written by Betty Siverns, B.C. Synodical President.

Mission Today

Three dedicated women from The Presbyterian Church in Canada gave a new zip to mission with their enthusiasm and their intimate knowledge of what is happening in Canada and abroad. Barbara Nawratil, Mission Interpretation Co-ordinator, Heather Chappell, Mission Education and Stewardship, both of the Life and Mission Agency, and Karen Plater, Resource and Communications Co-ordinator, Presbyterian World Service and Development gave a PowerPoint presentation based on Acts 11:19-30.

This passage describes Barnabas visiting the church in Antioch where for the first time the disciples were called "Christians." The early church was in partnership in mission just as it is today. Barbara, Karen and Heather illustrated how closely the various agencies of the church work, with Presbyterians Sharing… and PWS&D being involved jointly in some work.

Heather described her experiences with the Peace River Flames tour last year. She met Shannon Bell-Wyminga who carries the "church in a box." Shannon says all she needs is a Tupperware container to take the church to people in the Cariboo House Church Mission.

Karen Plater told how the PCC provides for people's basic needs in countries around the world: tents and water in Afghanistan; grains and lentils through the Canadian FoodGrains Bank in North Korea, assistance to Refugee Ministries in Canada; health education, HIV/AIDS work in Kenya, and so on.

They encouraged everyone to get involved and described the many ways congregations are now sharing with others. This powerful presentation was packed with information and really emphasized sharing.

Overheard: The WMS has the highest concern for mission in the church.

Closing Worship

It seemed fitting that following the above presentation, Margaret Robertson's

Mission Presentation - Cyprus

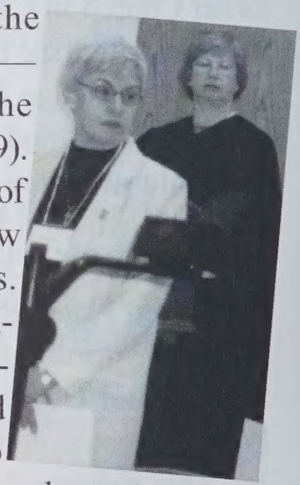
In this technological age, it was exciting to see the church at work through Satellite television. **Makram and Mona Barsoum** (left), missionaries in Cyprus, introduced the work of SAT-7, a television ministry in the Middle East. SAT-7 reaches 15 million people in a fast growing region where 95% are non-Christian. It is the only source of uncensored information and entertainment in the region. SAT-7 also provides counseling to viewers throughout Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

worship was based on "Going the Extra Mile" and the widow's offering from Mark 12:41-44. The WMS has raised a lot of money for mission for many years. Some have given beyond their means. This has gone a long way to take the gospel around the world. Times have changed. We now work in consultation with partner churches overseas, and go the extra mile to where mission is at our doorstep. Today's meeting places may be Tim Horton's and the shopping malls.

Tuesday May 7, 2002

Establish - Evangelism is Mission

Toronto & Kingston Synodical used Matthew 5:14-16, about being the light of the world to perform a dramatic presentation "Charged with Being a Christian." Various persons had to defend the charges against them for practising Christianity. This creative production was adapted from the Glad Tidings, based on Roberta McLelland's article "Along the Journey to Conviction", January/February 2002.



Lynda Reid led the bible study Establish—Sowing/Scattering the Seeds (Matthew 13:1-9). She used the metaphor of story to illustrate how faith shapes our lives. Stories build community. Stories invite commitment. Linda used the "River of Faith" to show where the WMS has been at various times in history. "That is our story!" she said. She challenged us to not only go and tell the story but to live the story.

River of Faith

Still available! Created for the 75th anniversary in 1989 by Jean Rankine, Noreen Marshall and others, this ambitious work of love is still available from the WMS national office. Contact Katherine Allen.

Overheard: Women's groups are the best for praying.

Elder's Institute

Dr. Mary Rogers, member of the advisory council of the Elder's Institute, explained the setup of the Institute. The Elder's Institute was created to equip elders and to help with the role of laity and elders in congregations and other areas of the church. Former area staff Erin Crisfield, director of the institute, runs an online course for instructors.

The Church's Study 2002-03

Learning/Sharing: Meeting Our Partners - Native Peoples in Canada

Dorothy Henderson (photo top right), Education for Discipleship (Children and Youth), Life and Mission Agency, invited delegates to help with this project by considering a section of the manuscript.

Making Connections: Aboriginal People in Canada: In

NOTE: It has been decided to withdraw the adult study as it is too time sensitive. Contact The Book Room for alternatives.

copy of the study will be sent free to each congregation as it is hoped that resources will be used from the pulpit and in intergenerational activities.

Karen (Timbers) Horst (photo bottom right), writer of the adult study, startled the gathering by appearing dressed as an 'alien'. She challenged people to think about what we need to know to fit into another culture—like an alien into the WMS, or a WMS person into the aboriginal culture.

Karen then led delegates through activities from one session which focused on the story of Jepthah who sacrificed his daughter because of the mores of his culture.

Closing worship

June Stevenson led worship based on proposed study materials. Her theme was "Something God Alone Can See" reminding us that we are called to be seed bearers, and sowers of seed. There is risk involved, and God alone knows what ultimately will happen.

Wednesday May 8, 2002

Equip - Mission is Evangelism

Rosemary Doran led the bible study using the theme Equip. She listed seven tools that are needed to equip us for evangelizing. She used the metaphor of packing for a trip, asking what is necessary and what is not. Groups discussed questions such as what do we need less of, what new ideas might be considered, and whether we are willing to pay the price to move out of restricting structures. Rosemary compared the church to a submarine that has closed its lid and sunk to the bottom.

Rosemary reminded everyone that we are called to be keepers, bearers, sharers of the story.

Farewells and Introductions

Departing members of Council Executive were recognized for their dedication: Mary Moorhead, MaryLou Johnston and Noreen Marshall.

Welcomed were new members Joan

Forward in Faith

As I write this, another annual council meeting of the Society has just concluded. It was a time of worship, study, fellowship and meeting friends, old and new, from across Canada.

It also is the time when our budget for next year is approved. The 2003 budget is almost $30,000 less than this year, as a result of our computer equipment being updated in 2002.

We look forward in faith to the continued support of members as we seek to faithfully carry on the work of the Society. God bless you.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

WMS ESTIMATES FOR 2003

MISSION EDUCATION

Salaries	$270,000
Benefits	40,000
Health/Dental Plan	20,100
Travel exp/deputation	8,000
Program expenses	2,500
Glad Tidings	10,000
Training events	1,000
Overseas Travel	2,000
Resources - staff	750
	$354,350

GRANTS

PCC General Fund	150,000
Regional Staff	390,000
Children/Youth	10,000
Outside organ. mem. Fees	2,000
Christian Literature	10,000
	$562,000

ADMINISTRATION

Salaries	$25,000
Benefits	3,000
Health/Dental	1,700
President's Travel & expenses	7,000
Annual Council Meeting	28,000
Annual Reports1	12,000
Executive & Com. Expenses	20,000
General contingency	2,000
Life membership/youth pins	3,000
Office equipment	8,000
Office expenses	20,000
Audit/Legal fees	10,000
Insurance/taxes/WSIB*	5,500
Continuing education	3,000
Consultative travel/ Reg. Staff	6,000
	$154,200

Total Estimates - $1,070,550.

*Workplace Safety & Insurance Board

Above: Three presidents - left to right Rosemary Doran, Mary Moorhead, Joanne Instance.

Smith, Doreen Dath and Margaret McGillivray.

The officers were installed by Mary Moorhead

Closing Worship and Communion

Sarah Kim conducted the closing worship and communion. She reflected on the past few days, how we have been challenged and touched, have had an opportunity to pray and study evangelism. She said that evangelism and mission can be painful and risky but reminded everyone that Jesus took a risk for our sake.

The **Offering Project** amounted to $966.92. It was decided to send $500 each to Flora House and Anishinabe, inner city ministries in Winnipeg.

Below: Noreen Marshall studies River of Faith which she helped make in 1989.

Dear God,

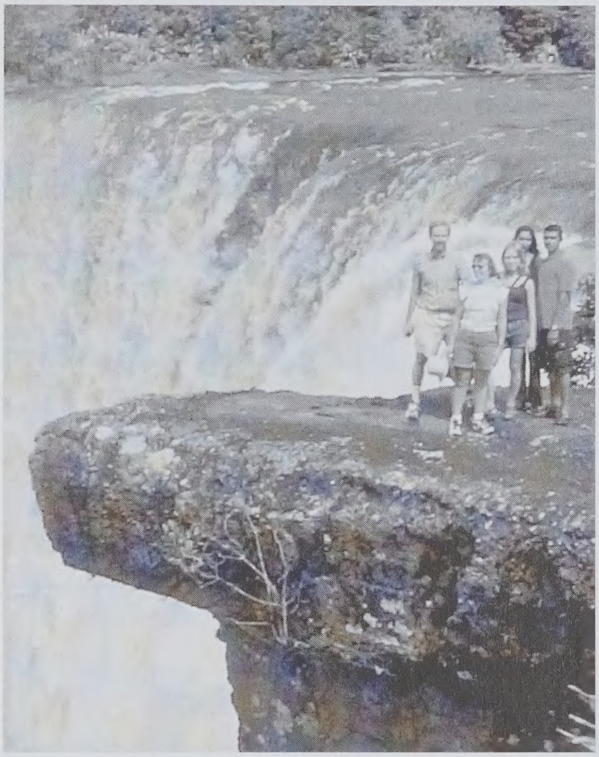
I looked for you today and found you in the forest.
You were there in the colours of the white and pink trilliums.
I found you in the shape of the green leaves, sprinkled with raindrops.
You were present in the form of the wet logs and soggy ground.
I found you as the rain fell to the earth.
You were with me in my thoughts as I pictured your beautiful creation.
I found you in the wild flowers peaking through the earth.
You were there as I watched the trees come alive after a winter's nap.
I found you in the blooming of wild flowers.
You were present as I breathed in the scent and sounds of spring.
I found you as I listened to the singing of the birds.
You were present in the form of little animals
such as the chipmunk, scurrying through the underbrush.
I found you as my feet trod gently along the path.
God, you are everywhere.
You are in my heart and mind
and what I have seen is a gift created by your hands.

Katherine Allen

- Written at Council 2001 at Crieff Hills.

Guyana - Land of Contrast

by Kenneth Stright



Above: Left - Kenneth Stright on the edge of paradise in Guyana.

Imagine Paradise, in all its beauty and bounty, and then imagine a blighted beauty with heaps of garbage and plugged and polluted waterways.

Consider a country with seemingly endless natural resources, 83,000 square miles of almost virgin forest, savannah and uplands, with gold and diamonds and bauxite in abundance, along with forest products of every imaginable description, plentiful beyond imagination.

Then consider this country crippled with debt, a deflated dollar, and social problems that seem insurmountable and you have just begun to glimpse the complexity and contrast that is Guyana in the twenty-first century.

Here is a land where it is always summer, a land with fifty species of fruit trees giving exotic fruit in every season, and yet people are hungry, children sleep on bags filled with grass, where many houses have no electricity or water and where squatter settlements have simply become permanent places of residence.

I walk a few meters to the local Internet Café to contact my family and friends and, on the way, I pass three of the local lawnmowers—a cow, a donkey and a goat. And every day I am reminded of contrast as modern transportation pauses for mule, and horse and push cart in downtown Georgetown. Next door to a Market little touched by time is a modern Superstore with everything under the sun to sell.

The country of Guyana was the most literate nation in the Caribbean region until recently. They have paid dearly for that success by seeing an exodus of professional and highly qualified people to North America, where the emigrant population now vastly outnumbers the population within the country itself.

The national motto is "One people, one nation, one destiny." But reality is a far cry from the motto. History has brought many people to these shores; most transported as slaves or indentured labourers for the plantations owned by Europeans Dutch, French, English and Portuguese. These people were brought from Africa, India and China, to join the Amerindian population, and the result is often referred to as the six peoples.

Who are we who now call
Guyana our homeland…
We're now the land of the six peoples.
Heirs of our indomitable ancestors
who paid the price with labour that was
relentless. Truly, the "meek have inherited".

A unique culture has arisen from the 'mix' that made this nation. Guyanese often refer to the creation of a new race from the coming together of those who originally arrived.

The history of the Guyana Tapestry
started with those brave ones
On our tapestry can be woven
the rich cultures and heritage
of all, each contributing
threads of beauty and strength
to weave from this diversity,
patterns, of lasting unity.
Our tapestry the richer
for the blending.

The hope and dream of unity among the founding people is often an illusion. Political parties are constituted along racial lines. Every morning I listen to radio Guyana, which has an early morning segment, called 'Inspiration for today' that always includes the words to this song:

This generation got to learn
To live much more together…
Let's make a try for we've
Got to do it some day…
We need love, peace and unity.

Bountiful fruit in every season.

The two expressions of Presbyterianism in the country (Guyana Presbyterian Church which is predominately East Indian and supported by The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and the Presbyterian Church of Guyana which is predominately Black and supported by the Scots) have the dubious distinction of being separated by race, though this is slowly being broken down in recent times.

It's hard to imagine a gentler and more peace loving people but just months before my arrival at the first of November, 2001 violence spilled over from the recent elections and people lived in real fear. Their story, as they express it to their temporary minister from Canada is told simply in a rather matter-of-fact manner, but such outward calm cannot hide the feelings of unrest, anxiety and fear behind those recent events. There seems to be an ebb and flow to life here that is accepted by the local population but which seems confusing and contradictory to a stranger in their midst.

This local attitude finds a parallel in one of the physical phenomenons of the country itself. Much of the coastal region of the nation (where virtually the entire population lives) and the entire capital city are actually below sea level. Only the thin ribbon of the seawall stretching endlessly down the coast keeps the capital of Georgetown and much of the coastal region from sinking back into mosquito infested swamp at high tide.

It is a precarious existence, and vigilance is ever needed. This is true of the sea wall and equally as true of the fragility of the country as a whole. The country is racially and religiously tolerant, home to large populations of Hindu, Muslim, Christian and others, yet again there are constant reminders that this is a fragile tolerance that must be worked at constantly to be achieved.

What shall we do with
This new heritage
Still in the making?
We should not carry
Old baggages of hate
And bitterness.
Now should we enclose ourselves
In cages of distrust,
Arrogance and envy
As we voyage on.
Or, we'll enslave ourselves again, in a
different way.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada was one of the earliest and most successful churches to begin ministering to the needs of the East Indian population in Guyana. That story is a long, and for many, proud recollection of the establishment of schools, churches, preaching posts and assorted community services, all of which led to a sizeable number of East Indians to embrace Christianity. In fact the East Indian catechists associated with the Mission were instrumental in sharing the gospel.

The local leadership is still today the heart of the work of the Guyana Presbyterian Church. I have been amazed at the quality of leadership in the church at every level but specially the dedicated women and men who make up the lay pastors, the presiding elders, the ruling elders, the local leaders and all the rest. “Someone pray for us.” The request is met by half a dozen voices ready to reach up to heaven to call on the grace of God to guide and direct.

Even with such wonderful enthusiasm on the part of the people I must acknowledge another contrast in this county of contrasts. I fear for the future of the Presbyterian presence and for the continued witness of this church to the people of Guyana.

Why? The clergy of the church are very few (frighteningly so for the number of churches needing to be ministered to) and they are ageing. And some of them are leaving. The future of a national clergy, well trained, is now in doubt. It seems strange to find such committed leadership in the laity and then to have so little professional leadership to guide the daily life of the denomination.

God will provide. The faith of this community of believers is marvellous to see. I thank God for the opportunity to walk a short way on the journey with them, to enter their homes and hearts and offer prayer and praise in the name of our gracious Lord.

The poetry is from 'Saman Sunset', a collection of poems by Ada Debedin, a member of Burns' Memorial Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, Guyana.

Sweet Scent of Hope

by Margaret Bunel Edwards

On that cold, damp morning in early spring, I carefully guided my small son, Campbell, along the slushy sidewalk.

We had just been to the doctor. In a low voice he'd carefully explained that the operation had not been a success.

My three-year old's eye condition was no better. Perhaps another operation, a little later on, would be more successful.

I shook my head as I helped my boy into his snowsuit. "I won't go through the separation, the feelings of uncertainty, the disappointment again," I said. "I'm not going to subject him to another experiment. We'll manage somehow."

So there we were, on an unfamiliar street, looking for a shop where I could buy him a promised treat. Discouraged, I chose a small store at random.

It was a happy choice. As I pushed open the door, the inviting aroma of ripe fruit enveloped us. Glistening madeira oranges, red malaga grapes and golden russet apples tempted us as we enjoyed the warmth of the brightly lighted store. I helped Campbell toward the long arborite counter at the front.

"Ah-ha !" Suddenly a loud, accusing exclamation, pointed as a rapier, ran me through and I stopped, uncertain. A great, olive-skinned man in a white smock swooped upon us from a side aisle. He lifted my son high in the air and gently cradled him in his strong arms. "The boy—he has had an accident, no? And where was the Mama?" Dark eyes, alert and penetrating, stared into mine, as the proprietor waited for an explanation.

"Not an accident," I hastily defended myself, feeling strangely guilty. "He's had an operation to try and correct an eye condition." Perhaps my tone was bitter. Perhaps the word 'try' was louder than necessary. Whatever the reason, the fierce man understood immediately that the surgery had been unsuccessful. His face softened as he sat his little green snow-suited captive on the counter. "His eyes," he repeated slowly, gazing into space.

"Years ago, in Budapest, I too, had trouble with my eyes."

Luminous, deep brown, piercing beneath dark brows, those eyes held my attention. "I had a blood clot," he explained simply, "In the hospital they gave me no hope. The eye must be removed."

I watched his changing expression and felt his long ago despair. He continued. "The pain was terrible. I cried for days, but still I would not consent. The doctor warned me against delay. It was my sight or my life."

His shoulders drooped as he relived his decision. "At first I said I would rather be dead. Yet, as time passed, I knew that life was good. I could feel, I could hear, I could think. It was not for me to decide all or nothing. I told the doctor to do whatever he must."

But both this man's eyes glowed with

light! Puzzled, I stared until his white teeth flashed in a wide smile of understanding. "Good people, clever scientists, are always busy," he said, stroking the bandages on my small boy's head. "Busy looking for new ways, new drugs. I didn't know, but I was being given something to thin my blood, just on chance that it might help - an experiment." One morning, I awoke and the pain was gone." His smile widened. "The clot had dissolved."

Happiness enveloped us as we stood, sharing our sense of relief. "My doctor rushed to the hospital. He took me in his arms and kissed me."

"Wonderful," I congratulated him, as I bought a warm, firm apple, wrapped in blue tissue paper. We waved good-bye as we went out into the grey day once more.

Yet, that sweet scent of hope lingered. Encouraging words re-echoed in my mind. Scientists were indeed busy. The owner of that small fruit shop had come to realize that he must trust and hope. I would do the same. In God's world, all things were possible.

The ensuing years brought two more operations before our doctor was satisfied. My son now enjoys 20/20 vision with prescription glasses.

The aroma of warm fruit more than recalls that shared experience which happily encouraged me to keep trying. It brings home the wisdom of Proverbs 15:23b: "a word in season, how good it is!"

I've learned, first hand, the comfort of knowing people care. And thanks to that dark-eyed, smiling storekeeper, I try to find words of encouragement for others, as he did for me.

Pearls of Wisdom

We all carry the seeds of greatness, but most stay in the packet.

If you can't be a sun, don't be a cloud.

There are many paths to the top of the mountain, but the view is always the same (Chinese Proverb).

The manner of giving is worth more than the gift.

The best way out of a difficulty is through it.

Those who say it cannot be done, should not interrupt the person doing it (Chinese Proverb).

God never gives you anything He knows you can't handle.

It is better to be a glorious failure than a miserable success.

There is no better exercise for the heart than reaching down and lifting up people.

Reprinted from SPAN, March 2002

Golden Gladioli

Having an "Attitude of Gratitude" makes a difference!

by Elizabeth Payne

We were given a beautiful bunch of gladioli this past week to celebrate our sixty-first wedding anniversary! They reminded me of our other lovely bouquet - the exact color - that a dear old Scottish lady had given us for our wedding day, sixty-one years ago.

But flowers don't last forever - only the memories, as my mother always told me. I slowly discarded the limp blossoms, one by one, and carefully replaced the bunch into a smaller vase. As I gazed at the last glad, standing alone, I thought to myself: all the petals are discarded but one.

"Just like life!" One by one, our 'petals' fade and lose their usefulness. But just remember the colour and what they represented.

As I reluctantly discarded the very last golden blossom I was saddened, but heartened. I mentally surveyed the passage of the years. So many flowers have gone-my health (I have osteoporosis), the inability to do so many things due to a broken arm, the continual use of oxygen, and now my eyesight—every precious blossom is gone or nearly gone.

Possibly, complete blindness stares me in the face as I impatiently await eye surgery on my one good eye this late fall.

However, my mental survey also reveals the many, many beautiful blossoms I have enjoyed all my life. Loving children, grandchildren, nineteen great grandchildren, old friends, Christian fellowship and blessings such as music and painting surround us.... I could go on and on counting my blessings.

God has been good to us. We sit quietly and count each day as a gift. Gazing at my husband who has survived several heart operations but still loves working among our flowers—our blossoms, I say to myself: "Thanks be to God for everything."

God be with me

God be with me
In my waking
That I may begin my day
With joy.

God be with me
In my doing
That I may fill my day
With truth.

God be with me
In my retiring
That I may end my day
With hope.

God be with me
In my dreaming
That I may fill my night
With peace.

Roberta G. McClelland

“*I*”-Witness

A box of various bulbs sat in the basement. After blooming in the spring they had been dug from flowerbeds that were to become part of the lawn. The plan to replant the bulbs in the fall was forgotten. They lay unused until early winter.

What a sad sight! The cycle of life working in them the previous spring had caused them to sprout. Piled on top of each other, the bulbs had grown shoots of various lengths, according to their position in the box. When the stored nourishment was exhausted the sprouts withered and the bulbs, having no more to give, dried out, the inevitable result of plain neglect.

People who plant bulbs know that the care they receive is important to their growth and maturity. Like the bulbs, we are “planted” by God. We have no control over our birth, sex, race, appearance or physical condition. All is in God’s hands.

God in Jesus met every need He saw and answered every call for help because of His great love. Believers are to follow His example. He has placed us where we are to see the needs of those around us and to help them in any way we can.

Choosing to get involved can be costly and inconvenient. We may end up giving precious time or experiencing monetary loss and personal pain. We could be misunderstood, hurt, rejected or exploited by those we try to help. Jesus knew the terrible suffering involvement would mean for Him, yet He was willing to pay the ultimate price so we could have the gift of His life for time and eternity. How can we refuse to help others understand it can be theirs for the asking?

Don't neglect to do what you can for those God brings across your path that are struggling to grow in adverse circumstances. God can bring them to maturity with your help; otherwise they could be lost.

Jean Abrams, Cobourg, ON

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The Pebble

Drop a pebble in the water: just a splash, and it is gone;
But there's half a hundred ripples circling on and on and on,
Spreading, spreading from the centre, flowing on out to the sea.
And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.

Drop a pebble in the water: in a minute you forget,
But there's little waves a flowing, and there's ripples circling yet,
And those little waves a flowing to a great big wave have grown;
You've disturbed a mighty river just by dropping in a stone.

Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute it is gone;
But there's half a hundred ripples circling on and on and on.
They keep spreading, spreading, spreading from the centre as they go,
And there is no way to stop them, once you've started them to flow.

Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute you forget;
But there's little waves a flowing, and there's ripples circling yet,
And perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave of tears you've stirred,
And disturbed a life that was happy 'ere you dropped that unkind word.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: just a flash and it is gone;
But there's half a hundred ripples circling on and on and on,
Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each splashing, dashing wave
'Til you wouldn't believe the volume of the one kind word you gave.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: in a minute you forget;
But there's gladness still a swelling, and there's joy circling yet,
And you've rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard
Over miles and miles of water just by dropping one kind word.

Author Unknown

Thanks to Janice Carter, Editor Presbyterian Message, Atlantic Missionary Society.

Twenty-Third Psalm

A Puzzle

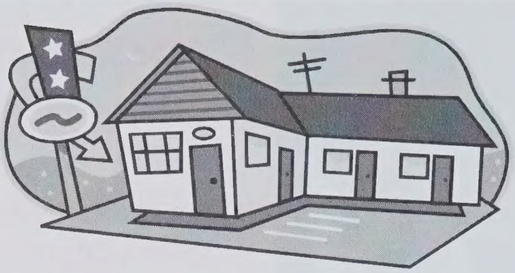
by Jim Phillips

G	E	N	E	M	I	E	S
R	O	U	C	Y	L	H	K
E	I	O	C	D	E	E	S
E	L	R	D	P	O	E	T
N	E	R	H	N	R	R	A
M	O	E	T	O	E	F	F
L	R	B	T	D	G	S	F
D	P	S	H	T	A	P	S
S	E	R	U	T	S	A	P
R	R	Y	E	L	L	A	V
E	V	I	L	P	H	M	J
L	S	R	E	T	A	W	O
B	C	O	M	F	O	R	T
A	S	P	H	O	U	S	E
T	N	I	O	N	A	I	N
A	E	F	I	L	U	O	S

ANOINT
COMFORT
ENEMIES
EVIL
GOODNESS
GREEN
HOUSE
LIFE
LORD
MERCY
OIL

PASTURES
PATHS
PREPARE
RESTORES
ROD
SHEPHERD
SOUL
STAFF
TABLE
VALLEY
WATERS

A Missionary Opportunity



by Ruth Helen Allum

On our vacation this year, we started out to tour Southern Ontario by car. After passing through a few small towns, we stopped at a small city to spend the night.

Instead of leaving the key in the room, as we usually do, we decided to take it to the office. I was met by a senior wearing a colourful dress. This was August and the woman, who was the owner of the motel, told me that in January the doctor said she had just six months to live, as she had cancer. She was obviously elated and pleased to be in good health—well past the six months. I sympathized and rejoiced with her and went on my way. Walking to the car I thought, "Oh I should have had a prayer with her!" I felt badly that I had missed the opportunity.

I told the story to Walter as we drove away. Walter, after driving several kilometers down the highway, drove back to the motel, knowing how the situation would bother me.

I walked into the motel office, and there was the woman in her colourful dress. I asked her if she would like to have a prayer. She said "yes' with some enthusiasm and went on to tell me it bothered her that she had never been baptized.

I immediately told her that both my husband and I were ministers and if she would go and get a bowl of water, I would get my husband from the car. I returned with Walter and, yes, the bowl of water was sitting on the counter. After instructing her in the classic doctrine, Walter asked her the required baptismal questions and she answered with joyous enthusiasm, "YES". I immediately followed the baptism with prayer.

We phoned the minister of the local Presbyterian church and told him of our experience. He readily agreed to visit and to encourage her to associate herself with this congregation.

On return from our vacation in two weeks, we made out her baptismal certificate and mailed it to her.

We received a lovely letter from her acknowledging the receipt of the baptismal certificate and inviting us to be her guest whenever we might visit again.

As we drove down the road after the experience, we rejoiced in the power of the gospel to meet the needs of those we encounter along life's way.

We had not expected to find an opportunity to bring another person "near to the heart of God," but in His love and mercy God gave us an opportunity to be missionaries for Christ.

We learned that there are hungry hearts wherever we go and if we take the time to offer the Gospel, those hungry hearts will be filled and we will go on our way rejoicing.

Ruth Helen and Walter Allum are retired ministers in Hamilton, ON.

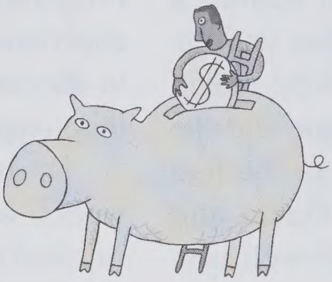
Program

Margaret Robertson
Program Secretary

A to Z List of Fundraising Ideas

Adapted from article in Mandate, February 2002

Here is a list to spark some ideas for fundraising. Be creative. Have fun. Put a new twist on an old idea. Add to the list and let us know how it worked out.



Arts and Craft Show
Auction

Bake Sales
Barbeques
Bazaars
Birthday Box - members contribute a penny for every year of their age.
Book Sales
Bridge Marathons

Card parties
Catering
Car Wash - youth
Christmas Card Sales
Calendar Sales - selling the Presbyterian Church calendars
Collecting Change
Concerts
Cookies for Christmas

Dream Auction - auction of goods, services and talents such as gardening, music lessons, craft lessons, gourmet meals and handyman services.

Drama - For several years St. Andrew's, Newmarket, Women's Fellowship has organized a drama or musical review. They stage it for two nights. Tickets sell out quickly and people line up to be involved. The money raised goes to several mission locations, including WMS.

Errands—be available to do errands—make it known that a donation for your service will go towards mission.

Fall Fair—make a display or have a booth to sell food at your local fall fair (or rodeo).
Fashion Show—could be a 'regular' fashion show or include people of the Bible.
Flea Market/Rummage Sales
Fun and Fit Classes - sometimes we need to feed the body before we can feed the soul. Is there someone in your church who can lead? Who can babysit? Charge admission, provide a mission.

Geranium Sale

Ham Dinner
Home Tours
House Plant Sale

Ice Cream Socials - most popular in warm/hot months!
International Festival - celebrate the diversity of your community. Set up booths for each ethnic group. Sell crafts and/or food from that group.

Jars, decorated - decorate jars, i.e. fabric tops so that those who preserve fruits and vegetables have pretty jars for gift giving.

Keepsake Boxes - decorate tins with quilt patterns and sell at bazaars. (Varsity Acres Church, Calgary)

Lenten Calendars - a calendar that lists one activity per day and the amount to contribute
Loonies for Lent - collect loonies in film canisters.
Luncheons

Making Marmalade - Get together in a group to slice and prepare the fruit, then get a small group to cook and can it. (Barb Petticrew, BC.)
Mission Festivals
Musical Review

Nearly New Sales

Offerings at Meetings

Pancake Breakfasts and Suppers
Photography Show and Sale
Pie Sales—Make pies together, take orders, deliver.

Quilting

Robbie Burns Suppers
Rummage Sales

Silent Auctions
Sock Away a Toonie - WMS provides knitted socks and congregational members collect toonies for mission. People were filling a sock and asking for more. Time frame was September to November. (Marg Befus, Calgary)
Soup and Sandwiches
Soup Suppers - one a week during lent, combined with the church's Lenten service. (Paulin Memorial, Windsor)
Strawberry Social (in June)

Talent Money - members are given seed money to start a project that will raise money.

Talents - using ours! - members sell their talents, i.e. gardening, house cleaning, cooking, sewing, babysitting, shopping.

Teas

Thankofferings

Thankoffering Dinner - invite all the women's groups or all the women of the church.

Turkey Dinners

Toonie Lunch—Once a month or so provide a hot dog lunch after church. It's a better way to meet people than coffee hour.

Used Book Sale

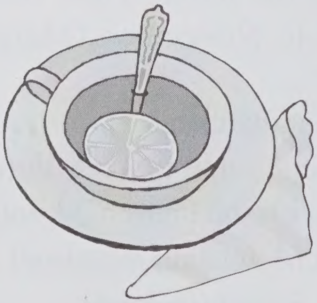
Vegetable Garden - if land is available, rent out space for a community garden.

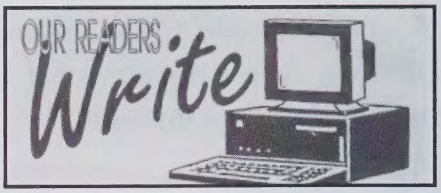
Wagon Sale - use wagons at yard or garage sale for displaying items.

Xerox copies of favourite recipes to sell.

Yard Sales

Zucchini Bake Sales (not really!)





Editor:
I thank you for all the good you do in many ways.

The subject [of clergy sexual harassment] is one that has been with us, unfortunately, since before our time and undoubtedly needs airing. Also unfortunately, unless all statements are checked for facts, it is possible to air comments from a person(s) who willfully, or perhaps obsessively, misinterprets words used.

A case in point: the Editor's Note, page 20, May/June 2002, about the use of "impotent": the minister commented upon [may have] used the word in the sense of 'powerless', quite legitimately; there was no sexual connotation and therefore no harassment, except imagined and perhaps looked for. (Perhaps the minister could be the 'harassee').

I really hope that the 'A concerned Presbyterian" letter writer in the same edition is not the same accuser because the 'None so deaf' quotation can apply in two directions: the Elders perhaps do not want to face her/him with the obsessive misinterpretations knowing the futility of 'none so deaf'.

Name witheld.

Dear Ms. Stevenson,
I am encouraged that Glad Tidings continues to discuss controversial and sensitive subjects, including sexual abuse and harassment. However, Janet Wiebe's article "Doing the Two-Step" (May/June 2002) was clearly biased.

First, Ms. Wiebe writes only of the experiences of congregants being harassed by clergy. This viewpoint is at best too narrow, at worst prejudicial. She encourages readers to believe that fully 25% of clergy have violated or are on the verge of violating the sexual boundaries between minister and parishioner. I question the accuracy of such statistics and I wonder how one can determine who is on the "verge" of anything. Equally as disturbing is the fact that Ms. Wiebe's examples and pronoun usage are reflective of only male clergy. Surely we are more enlightened as a society and a church that both women and men engage in sexual misconduct

Second, Ms. Wiebe's article ignores the fact that clergy themselves, male and female, can be and have been the victims of unwanted sexual advances from parishioners and co-servants in the church... [from] inappropriate comments and unnecessary questions about one's personal life to stalking and sexual assault. Clergy are vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse. They visit members of the opposite (or same) sex in their parishioners' homes or in a study often alone. When ministers attempt to dissuade such encounters they are sometimes met with resistance from parishioners and even criticism from sessions.

Ms. Wiebe then continues to advise alleged victims of sexual abuse and harassment to document inappropriate behaviour. This is necessary for both civil and church courts. However, tape recording conversations are likely to be, and should be, as inadmissible in a church court as they are in a civil court. No session can bring a complaint or charge against its minister. All matters of sexual abuse and harassment involving clergy are dealt with by the Presbytery to which she or he belongs. This occurs when a minister is either the alleged perpetrator or victim. While it is true that at the Presbytery level most ministers know one another, it is not true to portray Presbytery committees and commissions as being biased in favour of teaching elders. In fact, the opposite is sometimes true. Moreover, it can be argued that alleged offenses that would not go to trial in civil courts have sometimes to be tried in church courts resulting in discipline. Ms. Wiebe's impugns the professional integrity of members of Presbyteries, especially teaching elders.

Ms. Wiebe advocates for a "comprehensive training program for each congregation concerning these issues of abuse of power in order to repent of our security blanket of denial." I agree that ministers, ruling elders, members and adherents of our congregations should be encouraged to learn more about sexual misconduct and not fear discussing the issues involved. All clergy within our denomination have been ordered by General Assembly to attend at least one workshop on the subject. However, the problems of sexual abuse and harassment should be discussed without the prejudice and stereotypes that Ms. Weibe has clearly demonstrated.

Finally, I hesitated writing this letter to Glad Tidings because I am both a man and a minister. I did not want Ms. Weibe, or anyone else, arguing that I was simply taking the side of those of my same gender and profession. I am hoping that a woman who is not ordained will also voice complaints against Mrs. Weibe's

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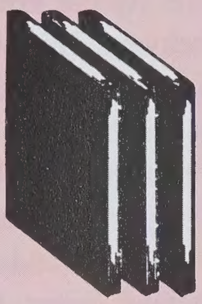

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Grace Keeps You Going by Mac N. and Anne Shaw Turnage. Westminster John Knox Press, 2001 $20.50
Co-authors and husband and wife, Mac and Anne Turnage, weave their story together with those of others battling cancer. Along with accounts of the everyday realities of dealing with a terminal illness, quotations and prayer-poetry from cancer survivors provide welcome spiritual footing in a shaken world. By directing the attention of readers from their sorrow to the Saviour, Grace Keeps You Going, allows readers to explore their fears and frustrations while offering an alternative to despair.

In a structured, yet easy style, the authors explore a wide range of emotions surrounding the confusion and busyness that inevitably follow the dreaded words, “I’m sorry, you have cancer.” They have managed to address unique issues from the numbing shock of diagnosis to the final cessation of physical life - both from their own personal experiences and from the experiences of others. In the gathering of those stories, the pathos and the spiritual wisdom that comes out of pain is evident.

The subtitle of this book, “Spiritual Wisdom from Cancer Survivors,” sums up the essence of Grace Keeps You Going: “We know, despite the permanent threat hanging over us, that God has given us a second chance, calling us to express our thanks by living fully each day” (Introduction, p. xv). Assistant professor at the University of Texas Medical School, Susan Cooley M.D., endorses the work with these words: This “book is not really just about cancer, it’s about grace.”

As a result of her own fight with colon cancer during the 1970s, Anne Turnage was the driving force behind the formation of CanCare, a network of hundreds of cancer survivors. The organization offers companionship, support and hope to others facing the same challenge. Included in this 136-page book is an explanation of the mission and philosophy of CanCare.

This book is an excellent resource for both cancer victims and those who support them. As a cancer survivor, I believe that such a book would have been a valuable asset during some very dark hours.

Linda Wegner

Living With Cancer: Meditations on Patience and Love by Melody Kee Smith and Richard A. Smith. The Pilgrim Press, 2001, 95 pages $13.95
In this book, author Melody Smith documents her personal struggle with breast cancer. She deals frankly with the feelings

and struggles that accompany terminal illness by using the medium of anecdotal storytelling. However, there is no hint of despair in her writings as she and her husband and co-author, Rev. Richard Smith, confront the reality of her disease with faith and mutual support.

The book is thought provoking, yet positive. From the beginning, readers are made aware of the commitment and support of the author's family in her battle with the disease.

Rather than focusing on the chronological history or medical facets of her experience, Smith uses mini stories to share the insights she has gained through her role as wife, friend, health professional and cancer survivor. Drawing on everyday experiences often overlooked in the absence of disease, she categorizes each meditation according to one of twelve different elements: including patience, melancholy, compassion, happiness and unity. These are not sentimental writings, though—Smith speaks of her frustration with the health care system, of her fears for her personal future and of societal pressures.

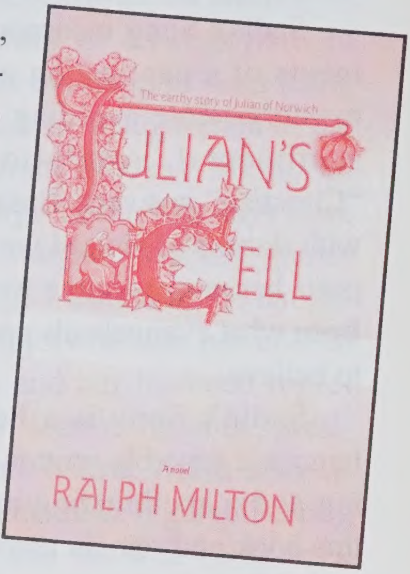
Smith extracts one simple truth out of each mini story. Following her own observations, she then leads the reader to personal contemplation by the use of succinct and thought provoking questions. Prayers written by her husband are complete in themselves or they can be used to facilitate group or individual exploration.

The book, just 95 pages long, is lightweight. As well, each anecdote is short, making reading easier and thus more attractive to those with limited strength.

Smith still struggles with cancer while continuing to serve as Director of Parish Care at First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, Connecticut where her husband is pastor.

Linda Wegner

Julian's Cell: The Earthy Story of Julian of Norwich by Ralph Milton, Northstone, Kelowna, BC, 2001 $23.25



In Milton's historical fiction, Julian of Norwich comes to life. She is no longer only the distant mystic of the 14th century, but we can imagine her life unfolding from a young girl to a woman, widow and anchoress.

The author's excellent research provides the basis of the circumstances and time under which Julian of Norwich lived, while her theological and spiritual insights become more meaningful and understandable for the average reader. It may even encourage us to look at our Christian faith from a different perspective.

Maria Stam

(See Maria Stam's article on Julian of Norwich in the July/August 2000 issue of Glad Tidings.)

Sadie's Song by Linda Hall, Multnomah $18.50

Troy is a pillar in his church; he was also a pastor at one time. Sadie is his quiet, unassuming and fully submissive wife. Or so everyone would like to believe.

In this masterfully written novel, Linda Hall has captured both the emotions and the ugly reality of spousal abuse within the boundaries of evangelical Christianity. Add to the plot the disappearance of a young girl, the strains of an unknown melody and the intervention of another child's father.

Sadie's Song incorporates all the elements of a captivating and fast-moving mystery while avoiding predictable and sentimental resolutions and easy "Christian" answers. Based on interviews with dozens of abused women, Hall transports her readers into a world far removed from what evangelicals preach and profess to believe.

Sadie's Song is a heart-wrenching lament, a superbly written journey to healing and a spellbinding mystery. To read this book and remain untouched is to read with blinded eyes. It is worthy to be required reading for all pastors and church staff.

Linda Wegner

Things I've Learned So Far

Life is short
God is long

Man loves deeply
Woman sins greatly

Woman loves deeply
Man sins greatly

God loves and loves
as both father and mother
God loves the sinner

Life is hard
God is present

Ah - men
Amen

Joan Bond

Glad Tidings Wins Award

At the annual Canadian Church Press meeting in Ottawa, May 8-11, the Glad Tidings received an Honourable Mention "Award of Merit." The award was in the category: Theological Reflection - Inspirational. Stewart Folster, minister at the Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry wrote the award winning article, "United in Fellowship" (p 16, Glad Tidings July/August 2001). The judge said, "The writer thinks clearly, is practical and has a deep faith...brought to bear on personal, church and racial problems."

"I was very highly impressed by this article. It was a timely assesment of the faith problems of today's Aboriginal peoples," the judge added.

MISSION IN ACTION

Joy Randall
Taiwan

March 2002 - Changhua Christian Hospital continues to expand and plans to open our research building this year. Our nursing department office will be moving to the new building. It will have 14 floors for administration and research, a large chapel for 1000, and several education and meeting rooms. We are also building a Pediatric Hospital attached to our medical centre.

Our Erhlin Branch continues to be busy and we have completely opened the third floor for long term respiratory patients and long term care. The government is encouraging our hospital to have more beds of these kinds.

Our Nurses' Choir and Erhlin Choir are busy with various activities in preparing for Easter and for visits to churches and aborigines' churches for service and clinics.

Chinese New Year's brought in the Year of the Horse on February 11. Louise Gamble and I took a pre-holiday visit to Taipei to visit places she had not seen for several years - Tamsui, Taiwan Theological College, Happy Mount Home for Mentally Handicapped children (formerly a Leprosy Home) and other places in the area. I also had a meeting while in Taipei. Then Louise came to Changhua for Chinese New Year's holiday and we were invited out by various friends to meals in Changhua and Puli, and a short visit to Sun Moon Lake which has been restored since the 921 earthquake.

Mackay Celebrations on March 9, 130th Anniversary of Evangelism in North Taiwan and founding of Tam Kang Middle School and the Inauguration of the Dr. George William Mackay Memorial Park (son of George Leslie Mackay) were held in Tam Sui. Margaret Mackay, granddaughter of George Leslie and the daughter of Ross Mackay (who was not able to come this time), and her husband represented the family. Joanne Instance, president of WMS and Wilma Welsh also attended. The Pipers from Ingersoll along with the warden and his wife came back again this year and made a great contribution to this celebration as well.

Our Canadian Mission of Jack and Betty Geddes, Louise Gamble and myself were there as well. I was in Taipei for several days for these celebrations and we were all honored highly for the work of the Canadian Mission in Taiwan all these years.

Pray that the witness will continue in Taiwan in the future.

I have started planning for my furlough this fall. I will be home from mid September to December 2002 (in Cobourg for my holidays).

Pray that staffing problems will be resolved with the hospital board so that our hospital can continue with its Medical and Healing Ministry and that there will be peace, understanding and acceptance of final decisions.

It is great to get all your cards, letters, emails and especially your prayers. This support in prayer helps me to continue serving our Risen Lord and Saviour.

Wishing you joy of heart,

May we all have the Peace that our Risen Savior has given us.

In His Love and Service,

Joy

Sonya Henderson
Cluj Napoca, Romania

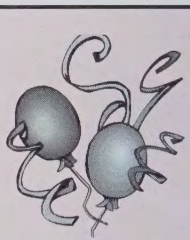
March 18, 2002 - This past month has marked my first anniversary of living and working here in Cluj, Romania. It has been interesting for me to look back on my initial reflections of this city and my work and compare them to my current "reality" of being here.

When I got here, one of my first impressions was of how beautiful this city was, yet run down. I walked down the foreign streets and marvelled at all of the unique sights and sounds. Now, the streets have become more familiar to me. The sights and sounds a bit more intelligible.

Romania is a country of stark contrasts. That is certainly one of its charms. I live in the middle of a city of 300,000 people yet can look out of my apartment window to see chickens, roosters and turkeys pecking away in the yard across the street. It was a surprise to me to I wake up each morning to the sound of a rooster crow!

At the same time, while walking down the street, it is not uncommon to see a flashy BMW rush by a man with a horse and cart bringing his produce to the market.

Overseas Staff Birthdays



SEPTEMBER
7 - David Villalonga, Nicaragua
14 - Michael Lessard-Clouston, Japan
16 - Arlene Onuoha, Nigeria
16 - Denise van Wissen, Nicaragua
22 - Jim Patterson, El Salvador
27 - Clara Henderson, Malawi (USA)

OCTOBER
5 - Kennis Kim, Guatemala
7 - Sylvie Babarik, Guatemala
20 - Lezlie Cowley Allison, Cameroon
23 - Glenn Inglis, Malawi

These stark contrasts highlight and parallel the harsh reality that exists here in Romania. Most people who live in a house in the city must keep chickens, roosters and turkeys because they often can't afford to pay for eggs and meat in the stores. Most people have plots of land outside of the city and work on evenings and weekends harvesting their crops so as to save money on buying these same things in the market.

The BMWs and Mercedes on the streets are a sign that there are pockets of great wealth here in the country. Without looking through rose coloured glasses, it is easy to see that here in Romania, many of the very rich are enjoying their position because of favouritism or corruption within the country's system. I don't want to negate the fact that many people, even the wealthy here work extremely hard for their survival. Yet, one thing that is apparent to me is that the rich here are very rich, the poor are poor.

However, there has been an influx of business in the city in the last year. I have noticed that there are more restaurants, Internet cafes and stores than there were last year. And the items that are available in the stores are more varied - even things like tofu, tahini and Parmesan cheese (non-existent a year ago) can be found on shelves of some stores here in the city. Bank machines are a common sight on almost every street corner.

The problem facing the people of Romania is that inflation here is high yet monthly incomes remain constant. There is certainly more choice - but people can afford to buy less and less.

Another change that I have seen in the last year is the presence of Romanian national colours around the city. The rampant nationalism is a bit difficult to swallow. Flags literally hang from every lamppost as well as most of the buildings, playgrounds—the park benches are all painted red, yellow and blue. Scarier still are the flags hanging from the Romanian Orthodox churches. In a country where religion is strictly divided among ethnic lines, this is certainly a strong statement indeed, of where the Romanian Orthodox church and Romanian state are distinctly linked.

I have noticed some very positive changes specifically in the students at the Theological Institute. They are more questioning and challenging, something that I didn't notice as much last year. Sometimes, I wonder if the unquestioning nature I recognize in many people here is a kickback from the communist regime. I'm sure it was an era effective in reducing people's desires to question authorities, ideas and ideals. However, this is slowly changing. It is great to see the students voice their opinions and desires - even if they don't belong to the "norm".

The Lamont Centre members after the *From Getting to Giving* conference.

This past February, the students organized a boycott of the student cafeteria at the beginning of this term because of their frustration and unhappiness about some school issues. I was told that this was the first time in the Institute's history that any students have done something like that.

On Friday, March 8th, the members of the Lamont Centre where I work prepared and carried out a seminar entitled "From Getting to Giving." The purpose of this was to encourage members and staff to thoughtfully consider the development of the original vision of the Lamont Centre in the light of the experience of its two-year existence.

In particular, those who are responsible for leading the growth of the Centre wish to ensure that what has been learned there will continue to enable members to develop into fully active members of the disabled minority in Cluj and beyond.

The main facilitator of the seminar was Ileana Aciu, who teaches computer skills at the Centre twice a week and who also contributes in varied ways to the well being of the members during trips, outings and social events.

In January, I spent four weeks studying Hungarian. The course was great and the instructors were very patient (for which I am extremely grateful). I was pleased with the course, but realize that I have just "scratched the surface" of this very difficult language. Although with my limited abilities, I am enjoying how many more people I can converse with: last week I had an interesting conversation about world politics with a cab driver! I am hoping that my abilities in Romanian improve in the coming months as well.

I was surprised when I got back to have such spring like weather here in Cluj. I noticed when I returned, throughout the country at the beginning of February that the farmers had already plowed, or were preparing their fields for planting. Quite an unusual phenomenon for a Canadian girl, let me tell you! But, talking to the locals, I take it that the warm spring-like weather so early is unusual for them, as well.

On a more happy and personal note, I am certainly enjoying walking to work and back with just a sweater on, weekend hiking in the hills surrounding Cluj and seeing the signs of spring so early in the year.

Classes at the Institute began on February 11th and the first half of the term is now drawing to a close. The students have a two-week "break" beginning on Friday, March 22nd as they will be busy travelling to villages and other towns to help the ministers there with their Easter services.

Many of the smaller villages (and some of the bigger congregations as well) celebrate what the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania calls the "big week" before Easter. It is the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday and sometimes even extends to the Wednesday or Thursday beyond Easter Sunday.

This "big week" means that there are services at the church every night. You can only imagine that the minister may be hard pressed to find (what we hope would be) interesting and relevent material to use for a whole week (or more) of services. That's where the students come in: they travel to these places and give the minister there a bit of a break by guest preaching.

My work at the Lamont Centre is going well. It has been a busy "spring".

When I arrived back, I was pleased to see my old friends again and meet new ones. Over my absence, the centre welcomed five new members and it has been a pleasure getting to know them better and welcoming them into my English classes there. The increase in membership also means an increase in the size of my English classes. I've actually added two more classes per week to accommodate everyone's levels.

I have been working on a web site for the Lamont Centre. It was "launched" about a week ago. The address is www.lamont.ro.

Sonya Henderson

Schwarz Nepal

Spring 2002 - In our local church, there have been several exciting events. The youth group had a retreat earlier this year, where there was a radical renewal experience. Many came back with a new fervour for the Word, for meeting together and encouraging each other. Many parents noticed the difference. This has been sustained in the past months.

There is an awareness of the needs of mothers and toddlers. Three months ago a nursery group was started and last week, someone volunteered as long-term caregiver.

The SS teachers continue faithfully in their commitment. It has been the same group of volunteers for the last five years, with a few new additions in the past year. Our recent graduation service saw 13 kids move on to the youth program. Currently there are 100-120 kids involved in the weekly classes.

It is a challenging time for our teenagers, with the political instability and a rapidly changing society. **Pray for the many young, unemployed and disillusioned folk who are tempted by the drug scene.** Although not an easy subject to address, the leadership is trying to start by having a teenage group meeting during the regular worship times.

This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of both our church and our Fellowship, called the Year of Jubilee. In the November meetings, it will be a time to celebrate His faithfulness and to hear the stories of many changed lives.

The Family Scene -

For our Easter school break this year, the kids accompanied mum and dad on their work trip to Tibet. Besides seeing an unusual facet of Lhasa, Christina experienced a valuable lesson in healing when she developed altitude-sickness, aggravated by a bad viral illness. This week as Ling met with a friend to pray, her comment was, "Why are you praying? Is someone sick?" We are glad she knows that our God is a healing God. Christina is working on her nail polish and candy collection at the moment.

Daniel is happy to have his buddy, Joshua, back from home leave. His favorite teacher is away on furlough so he is adjusting to a new one. Fortunately, his old teacher is moving up to the next class after the summer, just as he is being promoted. He is thrilled - and so are we. She seems to know how to bring out the best in him. Meanwhile he continues to spin stories and facts around in his head. When asked recently to read a book to help his imagination grow, he said, "But I already have too much in my head. I need to tell myself stories and think about things." He loves his soccer, hockey and just hanging out. His hat collection is capped just now. The recent Tibetan cowboy hat was a prize!

Jon is still a boy of strong opinions, a great big brother to Christina, but with mood swings. Mum is trying to go with the swings and letting him have more responsibilities and less control. He is a great reader and cyclist. The transport strikes are great times for family bike rides as we can all ride on the paved roads, and not worry about big buses or trucks! He enjoys his computer games, Lego, Kinex and more Lego. His creativity is a pleasure to watch. Currently he is working on growing his hair long enough to put in a ponytail and building a cage for some pet mice he is hoping to have.

Tibet Tour -

In April we went to Tibet for a Plastic

Surgery Camp at the invitation of a local Health Bureau in Zedang (two hours south of Lhasa). Tibet is a bit of a natural outreach for us given all the Tibetans and Tibetan people groups in Nepal. It was an encouraging experience given that Tibet is such a restricted area.

We were pleased that we could meet up with friends working there. The local hospital was welcoming and cooperative and the team that volunteered from three different countries came together in unity and efficiency.

Over 75 operations were done on people and even more assessed. Richard trained two Tibetan doctors in cleft lip and burn surgery. Rosie, our speech therapist trained a layman to do post operative speech therapy on cleft palate patients and wrote a speech therapy manual in Tibetan. A training course in laboratory technology was also carried out. There was a lot of goodwill generated that has led to us being invited back again next year for a similar sort of camp.

Richard has taken on a new posting as Acting Medical Superintendent at Green Pastures Hospital while continuing with itinerant camps and reconstructive surgery at Western Regional Hospital. I will continue my role as INF Medical Advisor until our permanent Medical Officer comes on board.

We are grateful to each one of you for your partnership in prayer and financial support. Blessings on you.

Abiding in His Peace,
Ling & Richard
Jon, Daniel & Christina

Pray also for peace in what once was a peaceful land: Nepal.

McKelvie
Pakistan

April 2002 - We are grateful to so many of you who are praying for us.

TB Program - It was particularly exciting to see that one of the TB clinics achieved WHO (World Health Organization) targets for cure rates last year. Most of the other clinics show signs of moving towards those targets too. Praise God for these encouraging results and that we would continue to improve.

Bill was invited to present the TB program results at the Pakistan Chest Society meeting in Peshawar in March. As a result of that, there has been renewed interest in our program. The director of the National TB Program wrote to congratulate us on our results and expressed a willingness to work with us. I hope to be meeting with provincial TB program directors in the coming weeks. Praise God for this opportunity and pray that meetings will go well.

Church - We are very much involved in the Easter celebrations at our church. This year we had five services during Holy Week. We started Thursday night with a foot-washing ceremony and communion. We witnessed some reconciliations take place, which was special. Bill preached at the Good Friday service (one of the seven words from the cross) and again at the service for guests on Saturday.

Sheila helped the women organize a drama for the Easter sunrise service. It was really encouraging to see tribal women take an active role in the service. Sheila also organized the Sunday School program (there were 80 kids, almost double the normal) and the game after. There was a real sense of celebration and fellowship.

Most of the guests at the services were new family members. These people have been attending a training program with our padre. The training program has continued every month, but financial problems (irrigation water is still in short supply, though improved) and outright opposition have kept many from attending. **Pray for these folk that they may be able to attend. Pray that God would soften the hearts of those who oppose.**

Pray for Padre Puna Lal as he conducts the programs and tries to teach those who can't attend in their own villages.

Family - The children have been just home for a ten-day break from boarding school. We went from a full house to an empty nest again. It takes some adjustment.

Daniel celebrated his sixteenth birthday on April 10. It was the first time in five years that he has been with us on his birthday. We are very encouraged by his growing faith and we pray that God would continue to work in Daniel's life.

Rebecca and Mark continue to enjoy their boarding experience. We continue to be thankful for this. Security at the boarding school has been increased. It is near an army base. **Please pray for the continuing safety of the children.**

Security - The attack upon the Protestant International Church in Islamabad has increased the security concerns of all foreigners living in Pakistan. We thank you for your prayers and expressions of concern for this. We too feel the need to take added security precautions as advised by friends and neighbours. Still we feel that God still wants us here at this time. Pray for us, that we will know that God is our refuge and fortress. Pray especially for Sheila as she and our company's leadership develop security strategies for all our partners.

I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:2)

Yours in Christ,

Bill, Sheila, Daniel, Rebecca & Mark

Lessard-Clouston

Japan

February 20, 2002 - "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philemon 3). We are finishing a warmer than usual winter, and though we've had many cold days the occasional snow has not stayed on the ground. Recently the weather people noted that spring has officially arrived in Japan, and the plum blossoms are appearing in our neighbourhood.

The period since we wrote last summer has been one of the toughest for our family during our sojourn (seven years next month) in Japan thus far. World events on and after 9/11 seemed surreal in various ways, but we've also felt very isolated. The first Japanese person here to talk to us about the 9/11 attacks didn't do so until three weeks later, and while westerners in Japan are generally still very ‘safe’, we are even more conscious than before of our ‘foreignness.’

On a more personal level, Joel’s difficult situation at our local Japanese primary school (which we spoke of last time) also became much worse, and greatly affected him and our whole family. After praying much and considering various options, we moved him last week from the end of grade two in Japanese school to the middle of grade two at a wonderful British international school in Kobe. While still a very new situation, the results so far have been very positive, and we can see answers to prayer. **Please continue to pray both for Joel and for our family as we all adapt to this major change.**

December was a hectic month of Christmas activities and welcome opportunities for us to talk about Jesus and His first coming. Our weekly English chapel services continued to be well received and attended this term, but our English Bible study has had erratic attendance. We are grateful for the various chances we have to serve in Christ’s name here. **Pray for us to have the right words to somehow fearlessly make the gospel known**.

Michael not only taught his undergraduate English courses in the School of Economics here in Nishinomiya, but for the first time I also offered two evening (graduate) classes each week at our new branch in downtown Osaka. Overall this was a positive experience, but the new graduate program in linguistics, culture studies, and language education is only completing its first year, and is understandably undergoing various adjustments.

Please continue to pray that I will have time to focus on and write up the rest of my doctoral research this year.

The women’s Bible Study that Wendy leads continues to be enjoyable and encouraging. What started as a study for mothers of young children now includes 11 women of various ages, with four children also attending our meetings (ages 1-4). We have been studying women of the Old Testament, which provides opportunities to see the Bible as a whole and to relate the Old to the New Testament. Discussion continues to be lively and intense, but please **pray that these women would have open hearts rather than seeing this study as simply an intellectual exercise. Please pray for their children as well.** Between us there are 17 children and I am attempting to provide chances for them to learn about the Bible too. At Christmas, for example, we had a birthday party for Jesus, when mothers and children celebrated together.

Both Joel and Caleb seem to have grown up quickly this past year. Joel (8 in March) amazes us with his interesting insights and his ability to design and build things. He says he wants to be an engineer! **Please pray for Joel and his adjustment to an English-language school.** May he develop good friendships and have a renewed joy in learning again.

Caleb (4) loves baseball, anything with numbers (especially money), and has a contagious enthusiasm for life. He is looking forward to starting kindergarten in April at the school connected to our Japanese church. **Please pray for Caleb as he adjusts to school this spring.**

We continue to attend and be active in an international church in Kobe, where we are all involved in Sunday school. Yet we continue to attend our local Japanese church regularly, too. The Christmas program there was a great success, and we are pleased to report that there is a new outreach to parents with young children.

Over the next several months, we ask you to **continue to pray for Japan.** After a decade of recession, there are many social and economic challenges here, and experts anticipate huge problems and changes ahead. **Please also pray for our emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual protection.** Our struggles are not against people but against the evil powers and forces in this dark world. Those that oppose Christ and His followers are active in Japan, so please pray that we may be protected from on-going loneliness and discouragement as we attempt to serve the Lord and know His peace and presence each day.

Thank you for your prayers.

Sincerely,
Michael & Wendy

Readers Write (continued from p 27)

one-sided article. However, her article was truly offensive and misinformed. I also voiced my concerns, believing the veracity of the mission statement of the Women's Missionary Society. It is no longer a society of only Christian women, but of all Christians. All Christians need to recognize the reality of sexual misconduct in the Church, but all Christians must do so in a fair and informed manner.

Yours truly,
Rev. Keith McKee
St. George's, London, ON

Dear June:
Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Hope that the Lord is keeping you well.

This letter is to inform you that I have completed my honours degree program from which I graduated on the 19th April. Upon completion of my honours degree program, the faculty of theology has recommended me for Masters program for which I have registered. This program will last for two years and hopefully I will graduate in the year 2004.

I am so grateful to what the Women's Missionary Society has done to a poor soul like me. Indeed I am a product of the WMS. I thank God for both their prayers and financial support. I know that if things have gone well so far, it is because of the women's commitment towards my study. May the good Lord bless the WMS abundantly.

Once again, thank you for everything.
Mercy Chilapula (Mrs.),
Harare, South Africa

God as Male/Female

You did not seem to get a lot of response to this question - somehow I thought it would provoke much interest.

Thought you might like to know Tom Harpur wrote on this subject, Sunday. April 28, saying wholeness embraces both male and female. If interested you might get it on a link through the Star. His references: Revelation 1:13 and Matthew 22. He then goes on to give his interpretation of the above.

Also in "These Days," April 24, that writer quotes from 1 Peter 2:2 saying the metaphor is on how God is like a comforting mother.

Elizabeth Tayti, Welland, ON

NEWS

"Three Plentifuls" and "One Shortage": Churches in Henan Province

(ANS) Ever since the reopening of churches, congregations all over China have experienced tremendous growth but Henan Province is unrivalled in its number of Christians and churches. However, the unique growth of congregations in Henan over the past years brings with it its own problems. Many of the newly founded churches are still unregistered, and estimates of the numbers of believers at the grassroots vary. Accordingly, the figures below constitute a minimum figure. Some observers estimate that the total number of Protestant Christians in Henan Province may be as high as 3 million. In October's edition of Tian Feng, the magazine of the China Christian Council, Jin Cuifang reports on a trip to this central Chinese province.

Jin's visit started with a call on the provincial church leadership in Zhengzhou. Church leaders there provided the author with the following information: Henan Province has more than 1,100 churches with a capacity for over a thousand believers each, along with another 5,000 meeting points for local congregations. Altogether, there are two million Protestants in Henan, who are served by 100 pastors, 394 elders and 3,000 evangelists.

The situation in Henan is characterized by the "three plentifuls" and "one shortage", Jin sums the situation up: There are numerous meeting points, believers and even lay training classes (the "three plentifuls"), but there is a dire shortage of ordained clergy (the "one shortage"). On average, one pastor has to care for 20,000 believers.

Canadian Council Churches Choses New General Secretary

Toronto, May 27, 2002—The Governing Board of the Canadian Council of Churches has confirmed the appointment of Rev. Karen Hamilton as its next General Secretary, beginning her term of office on October 1, 2002. Dr. Hamilton is an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada, serving since 1995 in mid-town Toronto at St. James -Bond United.

Famine and Theft Affect Givings in Synod of Livingstonia

To Marjorie Ross, International Ministries, PCC—The famine situation has a bit improved with the start of this year's harvest. However, many will finish what little maize there is while still in the garden and not take any home. The next twelve months will be a problem. Many, who are not traditional thieves, have been stealing maize just to survive. They have been beaten and some burned to death. The past four months the Synod has not received any Synod Share from the presbyteries because giving and church attendance has been down due to famine. Only our urban presbyteries have been able to assist us. Our pastors have not been paid for five months. Please keep the people of Malawi in your prayers.

Many thanks for your faithfulness in partnership and your prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. Ted Mwambila
Deputy General Secretary
Synod of Livingstonia Secretariat

In the Society

Synodical

Alberta & Northwest Synodical Annual Meeting was held April 5-6 at Varsity Acres, Calgary. The theme was Declare His Glory.

A very meaningful communion service was conducted on Friday evening by Rev. Tom Brownlee. A time of fellowship followed.

Saturday morning the women were welcomed by President Marg Befus. Opening worship was done by the women of Central and the in Memoriam by Norma Proudfoot.

Guest speaker was President of Council Executive Joanne Instance who spoke on her recent trip to Taiwan. Presbyterial President Priscilla Towers was presented with a Life Membership pin and Certificate. Priscilla has been a dedicated WMS member for many years and was instrumental in starting a WMS group in her own church.

Below left to right: Marg Befus, Priscilla Towers, Joanne Instance.

The 88th Annual **Manitoba & N.W. Ontario** Synodical was held in First Church, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba on April 11. The theme of the meeting was Mission: Then and Now. The scripture text was Hebrews 13.

Three speakers addressed this theme. They were introduced by President Ina Borger. Wilma Welsh of International Ministries reviewed mission in India, paying tribute to the work of Ida White, Pauline Brown, Margaret Kennedy, Mary Nichol, the McMullens, and John Buchanan. She also reviewed the work being carried on in Nepal by doctors Ling and Richard Schwartz, and of the contribution being made in Malawi by Dr. Rick Allen, who is engaged in AIDS/HIV education.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. Dr. Joe Reed, brought us up-to-date on the church's mission in Guatemala. He has been encouraged by the willingness of the church to seek new ways of accomplishing mission.

Joanne Instance, President of WMS Council Executive and a member of our Synodical, gave an interesting account of the recent anniversary celebrations in Taiwan, commemorating the beginning of the Presbyterian mission there by Dr. George Leslie Mackay.

In closing Ina Borger paid tribute to members of the Brandon Presbyterial, now disbanded, who through the years have maintained the WMS programs and mission outreach. Some groups will join with the Winnipeg Presbyterial.

Presbyterial

East Toronto Presbyterial held its Annual Meeting on February 23rd at Trinity

Church, North York, ON. The theme was Recognizing the Laity based on Psalm 134:1a. President Lynnette Clegg welcomed everyone, especially friends from the recently closed Pickering Presbyterial.

Devotions were prepared by Trinity Presbyterian Women. Greetings were brought from West Toronto Presbyterial by Carolyn Jones; from Oak Ridges Presbyterial by Ellen Parker; and Doris McAndless brought greetings from the Synodical of Toronto/Kingston.

Rev. Lynda Reid reported on changes to the WMS Constitution and By-Laws. Rev. Sarah Kim, Executive Secretary of the WMS, was guest speaker. A prayer time was held for concerns expressed by those attending the meeting. Margaret Near presented the In Memoriam Service.

Lynda Reid conducted the election of officers for 2002-2003, and Ferne Reeve of Trinity Church led the closing worship and benediction.

St. Andrew's, Owen Sound, hosting the Annual Meeting of **Bruce-Grey** Presbyterial on April 9, registered 59 members and guests, representing 16 WMS groups.

Following a hymn-sing, the meeting was opened by President Eleanor Crabtree, Meaford. Warm welcomes from Sandra Barker and Rev. Ted Creen, Owen Sound WMS and Church were followed by worship. In Memoriam was presented by Walkerton WMS, led by Kay Remus. With scripture readings from Psalm 95, 1Peter 5, and Micah 6, we were asked what does God require of us/me? The theme for the day was Stalwart Stewards of the World.

Special music was a true joy: Marion Ford at the piano and violinist Donna Steinacher treated us to 'Largo' and 'To a Wild Rose'.

Carol Mackowski, Southampton, shared recommended changes to the WMS Constitution. A donation of $150 to FoodGrains Bank—A Christian Response to Hunger, was approved in lieu of payment as wished by the guest speaker.

A hearty lunch and book sale browse, allowing treasured fellowship amongst members, led us through another "gathering" hymn-sing to our afternoon program in the chapel.

President Crabtree introduced guest speaker Truss Dales, Meaford who brought to us through her slides and commentary, her experiences of a Study Tour with FoodGrains Bank to Cuba and Haiti. Truss, a board member of Big Head FoodGrains Bank assured us that the "grains" do indeed reach their destination, and are very appropriately utilized.

Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, Area Educational Consultant installed the officers.

The Sacrament of Communion conducted by Rev. Ted Creen and Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs brought our day of celebration to a close.

Brockville Presbyterial held its Spring Rally March 25 at St. Andrew's and St. James Church Cardinal, Ontario.

President Margaret Reynolds led a brief Bible study on the theme Called to Service. Fran Adams, pianist, led singing on the theme.

Rev. Heather Jones, recently returned from four years in Malawi, gave an overview of her missionary calling there. She was a teacher, chaplain in high schools, taught the Women's Guilds cross-stitching to raise money for church projects, acted as a role model for women as ordained ministers, and assisted ministers.

Promotion for sales of greeting cards cross-stitched by the guilds is greatly sought for much needed funds. These are sold in different countries to raise money for the church in Livingstonia, Malawi. The church is at work improving the lot of the people.

Henny Donkersteeg thanked Heather and wished her well in her further service in Canada.

Essex Kent Presbyterial held their Annual Meeting at First Church in Chatham. The meeting opened with a welcome from President Beth Brennan followed by greetings from Rev. Evelyn Carpenter of the host church.

New area staff Rev. Ann Yee-Hibbs led in worship and song. Her service was based on the Palm Sunday story of Jesus' journey into Jerusalem for the Passover.

Beryl Richards of Dresden led the group in a memorial service.

President Beth Brennan constituted the meeting and business followed. Eleanor Hansen, literature secretary, gave reports on several books.

Lunch was provided by the host church. Carolyn Reid led the group in a rousing singalong to begin the afternoon session.

After a brief introduction by Fran Monk, Clare Brown from Valetta showed slides and gave commentaries of his Flames tour to Kenya and Malawi. The presentation was well received Ruth Smith thanked Clare for his talk.

Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs conducted the installation of officers for 2002.

President Beth Brennan closed the meeting with prayer.

At the **Sarnia** Presbyterial Annual Meeting, January 19, 2002 a workshop was presented showing relationships between native Canadians and immigrants.

Those taking part in a skit "Rainbow World"* are pictured below left to right: Donna Smedley (native child), Anna McCoskery (elder), Fleur Eenkhoorn (director), Joyce Pritchard (industrialist), Isobel Nisbet (citizen), Joyce Trapp (farmer), Margaret Smith (trader), Dorothy Neal (priest), Betty Watson (farmer), Margaret MacDonald (explorer) and Margaret McNeil (politician - with cigar). Marion Perrie (not in photo) was moderator of the discussion which followed.

* "Rainbow World" was produced by Robin and David Craig for Ten Days for Global Justice.

Fun, freebies, friendship and food! What a great way to spend a nice spring Sunday afternoon. The **Superior** Presbyterial held its third annual Mission Fair at First Church, Thunder Bay on April 21.

The theme for the day was Living Lightly on the Earth, borrowed from the mission study for this year. The event began with opening worship led by Rev.

Gwen Ament and Gladys Glover, WMS members who had recently returned from a house-building mission trip to El Salvador.

The following groups provided information booths: Eco Superior—a local environmental awareness and education organization which brought a vermiculture compost; Seeds of Diversity—promoting the use of "heritage" species of plants, in an effort to broaden the gene pool from which we can grow food, flowers and other plants; Lakehead Conservation authority—a local conservation group; Frank's Alternative Energy—a local business, offering demonstrations of energy alternatives wind, solar, etc; and the WMS information on one of our Presbyterian mission organizations.

A children's area (photo top right), featuring environmentally friendly recycled craft activities, was very popular. It is amazing what kids can create with buttons, beads, cereal boxes, and a little imagination.

A book display, provided by The Book Room, had a large range of items.

The afternoon concluded with a potluck supper, and lots of visiting. Dozens of people of all ages took part in this event, including families from all four of the Presbyterian Churches in Thunder Bay, and people who had heard about the event through advertising in the local media.

The 116th meeting of **Kingston** Presbyterial was held at St. Andrew's, Picton on April 13. The theme was Woman to Woman, Growing Through Mentoring Relationships.

The day began with browsing at the book table provided by Audrey Cossar and The Book Room.In the sanctuary Rev. Bob Jones welcomed the group. Linda Carroll and Jean Brinkos of Picton WMS led the opening worship service based on Timothy 4:12, "Let no one despise thy youth." Mentoring youth and the importance of active listening was highlighted using case studies supplied by Cameron Lawson, Quinte Youth Worker and minister employed by the community at the local S.S.

Guest speaker, Evelyn Bowering, a Family Counselor, Department of Medicine, Queen's University gave an overview of the day introducing her copresenters, Melissa Forsyth (her daughter), of Mentorwise International and Margaret Quigley, a retired Diaconal Minister of the UCC. Evelyn commented that friendship over the generations is unique in faith communities. Woman/woman friendships are responsible for shaping who we are, who we are meant to be and who we become. Melissa presented a view of mentoring from the 30s indicating the need of self care and nurturing.

Small groups discussed important mentors in their lives and young people that they have mentored.

The afternoon program viewed mentoring from the 70s. Margaret stressed the importance of the motto of CGIT in her life. Evelyn closed with mentoring from the 50s. She stressed growth through our adversities and life challenges.

Courtesies were given by Marlene Cribar, St. Andrews, Belleville. The officers for 2002 were installed by Doreen Dath who was given an Honorary Life Membership. Doreen led a memorial service. Leila Page and Heather Fear provided the closing worship service considering the mentorship of Naomi and Ruth.

The annual meeting of **Edmonton Peace River** Presbyterial was held at First Church, Edmonton, Alberta on March 16.

President Millie Freeman welcomed everyone and opened in prayer. Following the business Rev. R. Glen gave the grace before we enjoyed a delicious lunch.

At the afternoon session five persons from different churches each gave a short summary of one of our missionaries. Four mission hymns were sung.

Guest speaker was Makram Barsoum, a professional engineer, and his wife, Mona. Recently Mr. Barsoum has become a full time missionary of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, serving in the Middle East with SAT-7 Media Service in Cyprus. Norma Proudfoot thanked the speaker for his interesting presentation.

St. Andrew's WMS, Perth, ON celebrated its fifty-year members on March 25, 2002. Members below left to right are Eunice Schrader, Evelyn Miller, Gretta Crabb, Verna Pope, Edna Goodridge.

In 2001 International Year of Volunteers, Edmonton Presbyterial received a letter and certificate from Ann MacLellan, Federal Government, thanking us for our volunteer efforts in partnership with Operation Friendship and the City of Edmonton.

Margaret Befus, Synodical President, installed the officers for 2002.

The president closed with prayer.

The 51st Annual Meeting of **Niagara** Presbyterial was held at Drummond Hill Church in Niagara Falls on January 31, 2002. It was a significant location for the meeting as this year Drummond Hill Church celebrates its 200th Anniversary.

Opening worship and communion were led by the Moderator of Niagara Presbytery, Rev. Gordon Ford of St. Andrew's, Niagara-on-the-Lake. The theme for the meeting was Equipping the Laity. New area staff Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs was welcomed. Former area staff Rev. Margaret Robertson led in two very thought-provoking and memorable workshops based on Lydia.

The morning and afternoon opening "Hymn Sings" were led by Nancy Wehrmann and Anne Marie Henderson. Business meetings were conducted by President, Nancy Miller. We were delighted to learn that Norma Goldsmith of Welland would receive a Life Achievement award at the upcoming meeting of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators. All in all it was a "good news" annual meeting.

Margaret Robertson installed the officers for 2002, including new president, Betty Crogie.

Local

The Women's Auxiliary at **St. Andrew's, Kingston**, ON began their year with a luncheon given by President Dorothy Fresque for the executive. Following that, the year's activities were planned. Their theme for study is "Putting a face on Missions."

In January our plan to have Brenda Patterson as guest was changed. Instead her husband, Rev. James Patterson was guest preacher in our church. At our WMS meeting we used the material gleaned from speaking with Brenda and from the Glad Tidings.

Sister Joan Budzidk with the chaplaincy committee of a local hospital was our guest in February. She shared her thoughts on "Happiness." We were indeed lifted up spiritually with her wisdom and sense of humour.

We traveled to Malawi in March via film and material from The Book Room and Glad Tidings. We learned of problems encountered and of the joy of the people. Hopefully, we will help by sending some mosquito nets to prevent malaria, vests and toques to prevent pneumonia.

Left to right: Phyllis Bentley, Dorothy Fresque and Helen Carmichael,Kingston, ON, ready for tea and birthday cake.

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

It has been brought to my attention from our mailing house that some subscribers did not receive the last two issues of the Glad Tidings magazine. The reason for this is partly due to the Canada Post database refusing the subscribers' addresses as perhaps incorrect or incomplete.

I have notified these subscribers and asked that they check their addresses. The problem with these subscribers' addresses was that they did not include a street address or box number, or the postal code was wrong. Thank you to those subscribers who responded to my letter so quickly.

When you receive your copy of the Glad Tidings magazine, please check your address and let me know immediately if it is incorrect. This will help prevent any delays in receiving future issues of the magazine.

In the last issue we reminded the Glad Tidings or corresponding secretary to please send any changes in Glad Tidings secretary to our office by the end of June. This will ensure that the summer mailing is mailed to the appropriate person.

Promotion of the magazine is ongoing and in order to help with this, we can supply you with up to 50 copies of the Glad Tidings. The Glad Tidings is for everyone, not just WMS members.

April was birthday month—we wore our best hats and white gloves to celebrate the birthday of our Auxiliary. We were honoured to have the first president, Irene Callum cut the birthday cake, complete with the WMS crest, a gift from Helen Carmichael, a loyal member.

The emphasis during devotions was "Memory—Thanksgiving—The Future" and each of us gives thanks for the contri-

Busy hands at Westminster Presbyterial at St. John's, White Rock (left), February 13 created an afghan during the meeting to be sent to an orphanage in Cambodia.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Isabella Thompson
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Mrs. William (Reitta) Bell
Shakespeare, ON

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(formerly of Alma St.)

Mrs. Mary Gray
Bonar-Parkdale, Toronto, ON
Dorothy McDonald
Glebe, Toronto, ON

Ada Fisher
Eileen Shelton
St. Andrew's, Tweed, ON

Miss Margaret (Peggy) Westlake
St. Andrew's, Trenton, ON

Reta Penwarden
St. Andrew's, Welland, ON
(aged 106 years)

Sarah (Sadie) Williams
St. Andrew's, Windsor, ON
(aged 105 years)

Mrs. Helen Mark
Knox, Woodstock, ON
(wife of the late Rev. Harold Mark)

Sarah Watson
St. Andrew's, Wyoming, ON

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Glad Tidings

September/October 2002

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

August 2002

Gone fishing...

Yes, dear friends, I have gone fishing, taking the last three weeks of August for holidays. I am happy to give this page over to one of my favorite poets, Joan Bond of Steinbach, Manitoba. As to wisdom, I echo her sentiments entirely!

Wisdom

***Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore, get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.* Proverbs 4:7 KJV**

Wisdom does not need a face lift
tummy tuck or black tights to hide
varicose veins.
Wisdom does not dye her hair youth yellow,
but glories in grey.

She delight in full skirts
flat heels and long short stories . . .
And doesn't deny herself crisp air or butter.
Wisdom allows herself to be caught
without lipstick.

She'll serve you supper with a warning:
Drink and eat with measure . . . and pleasure.
She'll smile, scold and whisper
then invite you to talk on & on & on.

Her porch is wide and open
garnished with greenery.
Her pets are one canary, two cats
and the neighbour's large dog.

Wisdom carries a full supply
of handkerchiefs and ribbons.
Wisdom dances with children
and waltzes with elders.
She is you, becoming you.

Joan Bond

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP 2002

Remembering to Give Thanks

by Lydia Calder

Preparation: Read the service carefully noting items needed by Readers, and scripture passages to be read. Prepare the communion table or other table to be used. Have strips of multi-coloured construction paper, about 8-1/2 x 1 inches, ready. As people enter invite them to write their name on a strip and attach it to others to make a paper chain. It will be used to illustrate the final reading.

Call to Worship (Psalm 28:6-8—NIV)
Leader: Praise be to the Lord,
People: for he has heard my cry for mercy.
Leader: The Lord is my strength and my shield;
People: My heart trusts in him, and I am helped.
Leader: My heart leaps for joy
People: And I will give thanks to him in song.

Hymn: 457 Now thank we all our God (1972 BoP 103)

Reader 1: The ability to remember is a wonderful gift. We smile as we recall running barefoot in the grass, seeing the sun set over a calm lake, hearing our baby laugh for the first time.

We hurt for people whose memories are vanishing, whether through accident, illness or age. A sense of helplessness overwhelms us as we watch their worlds shrink day by day. When the memories are gone, so is meaningful life.

Memories unite human beings from one generation to another. Before the days of written language memories were shared pictorially with etchings and carvings; and orally through poetry and song. Our Scriptures are a recorded history of a people as well as a revelation from God. They remind us of unchanging commonalities, of human failings that continue to burden, of shared joys and sorrows.

Memories also play an important part in our giving thanks to God. In the midst of everyday life we often lose our perspective. Remembering each blessing emphasizes the scope of God's faithfulness.

Scripture: Lamentations 3:21-25

Prayer: God of all yesterdays, as well as each tomorrow, help us to appreciate the ability to remember and to see your leading through the months and years of our lives. Heal us from memories that hurt and focus us on those that make us smile. Grant us the wisdom to draw from our past experiences that we might build a better future.

Reader 2 places a flower on the communion table then says:
As we come before God in thankfulness we remember the mighty work of creation. From the tiniest wildflower blooming on the mountainside to the largest whale gliding through the ocean we see the Creator's immensity and imagination. Each grain of sand on the beach and each star in the sky encourages us to lift our hearts in joyful worship to our Maker and bow in humble thanksgiving to our Lord.

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:7-12

Prayer: Alpha and Omega, we stand in awe of your creativity, your power, and your wisdom. Thank you for the beauties of nature, the bounties of your providence and the blessings of family and friends.

Hymn: 399 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness or 328 This is my Father's world (1972 BoP 242)

Reader 3 places a scroll on the communion table and says:
Thankful hearts are called to remember the covenant God made with humanity. Knowing our frames were weak and our wills even weaker, God promised to remain faithful even when we are not. Beginning with Abraham and Sarah and culminating with Christ, God kept every promise. From the first images of Genesis through to the visions of the Revelation we see God's care and faithfulness.

Scripture: Psalm 105:1-9

Prayer: Faithful One, we thank you that your steadfast love never ceases. We are humbled by the depth of your compassion toward us, your wandering, struggling children. Keep us mindful of our place in your covenant of grace and our purpose in awakening others to your great mercy.

Hymn: 96 Let us with a gladsome mind (1972 BoP 60 v 1-3 & 6)

Reader 4 places a candle on the communion table, lights it then says:

We give thanks for the Bible, remembering that it is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Its message is in turn comforting and inspiring, pleading and reprimanding. Sometimes we see its meaning clearly and sometimes through a glass darkly. Sometimes we long for its support and sometimes we flee from its lessons. But always it is there as God's message of hope for a broken world.

Sentenced to prison in Siberia, Feodor Dostoevsky was given a New Testament by the wife of another political prisoner. Years after his release his daughter wrote, "He studied the precious volume from cover to cover, pondering every word... All his works are saturated with it and it is this which gives them their power."

Scripture: Psalm 119:44-52

Prayer: Lord God, over the centuries you have communicated with your people in many ways. We thank you for your repeated efforts to connect with us. Help us to integrate your word into our lives that we might become living testaments.

Reader 5 places a cross on the communion table and says:
With broken spirits we remember that it was our sin that drove the Son to his death. We need not ask whose hammer nailed his hands to the cross. We need not ask whose spear pierced his side. And with a heart full of thanksgiving we acknowledge that his sacrifice has given us abundant and eternal life.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Prayer: Heavenly Parent, the sacrifice of your only son is beyond our comprehension. Few among us would willingly give our child that others might live. May your Holy Spirit so fill us that we become living sacrifices, people committed to sharing the good news.

Hymn: 235 Alas, and did my Saviour bleed (1972 BoP 183)

Reader 6 places the paper chain on the communion table and says:
Our "thanks" giving cannot be complete without remembering the gift of Christian fellowship. We return to our childhood days and recall those people who first told us about Jesus and his love. Perhaps you too have memories of sitting next to a huge black furnace in a tiny church kitchen listening to stories of Jesus; or of a short, greying old gentleman with peppermints in his pocket and a love of God in his heart.

We give thanks for brothers and sisters in Christ who have supported us in our trials and rejoiced with us in our successes. We celebrate God's creative hand within each individual and the richness and variety of spiritual gifts we see around us.

Unison Prayer: Lord, we affirm the unity we have in Christ. Harmonize us with one another, that the world might see the bond of your love amongst us and be drawn to you.
Hymn: 472 We are God's people or (1972 BoP 567 Come, ye thankful people, come)

Offering: As God's people, we are called to show our thanks with generous spirits. Let us offer up the best we have to give.

Offertory Prayer: Giver of all good, keep us ever mindful of the needs around us. Bless these gifts that they may accomplish your work throughout the world.

Hymn: 802 For the fruits of all creation (1972 BoP 570)

Unison Prayer: Mighty God, you have given us so much. One thing more we ask, that you give us hearts that remember to be thankful. We ask all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Lydia Calder lives in Sooke, BC. Amongst many things, she thanks God for a devoted husband, two great sons, one wise daughter-in-law, and an energetic puppy.

Summer Soliloquy

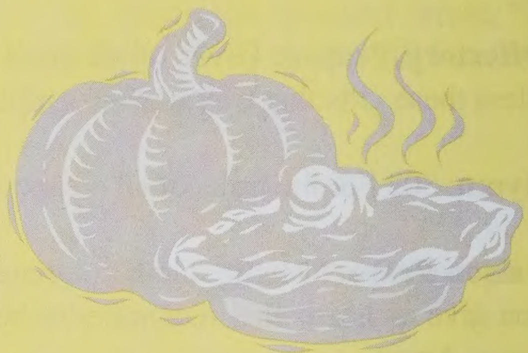
How sudden comes the warm and summer clime
The greening and the clattering cricket time
When sun with constant pulsing heat
Has tuned the earth to slow and tepid beat.
Now I may lazy on the water lie
And watch the moist winged shimmering dragonfly
Rise from the dark and weedy depths below
To limpid rest where lilies easy sway
Whose element once water, now can know
Throughout a season's bright and dazzling day
High joy in sweet air's lifting swift delight
As soon the dragonfly finds crystal flight.
When this body tires I hold Christ's promise
That soul can know bright metamorphosis!

Alice L. McMullin

Alice McMullin is a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Windsor, ON.

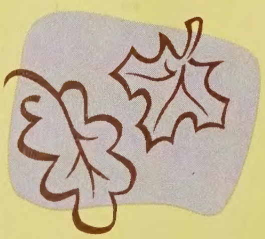
On This Day

On this day
I wish you:
The luxury of
Silent alarm clocks.
The peace of a morning spent
Lingering over well brewed coffee
And a favourite breakfast.
The knowledge that today
You don't have to go anywhere
Or do anything
That you don't want to do.



I wish you:
The invigorating gift
Of brisk fall air.
The sound of crunching leaves
Beneath your feet.
The sight of red, orange, and gold leaves
Rioting through the foliage above you.
The bright stars of a crystal clear night
And the unmistakeable crackle
And the soft sent of woodsmoke
From a fire in the hearth
Which tells the world that you are home.

I wish you:
The pleasure
Of good food
And good drink.
The warm company and the joy
Of good friends and family.
The blessings of God
Both now and forever.
And the certainty
That you are always
In my thoughts and in my prayers.
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

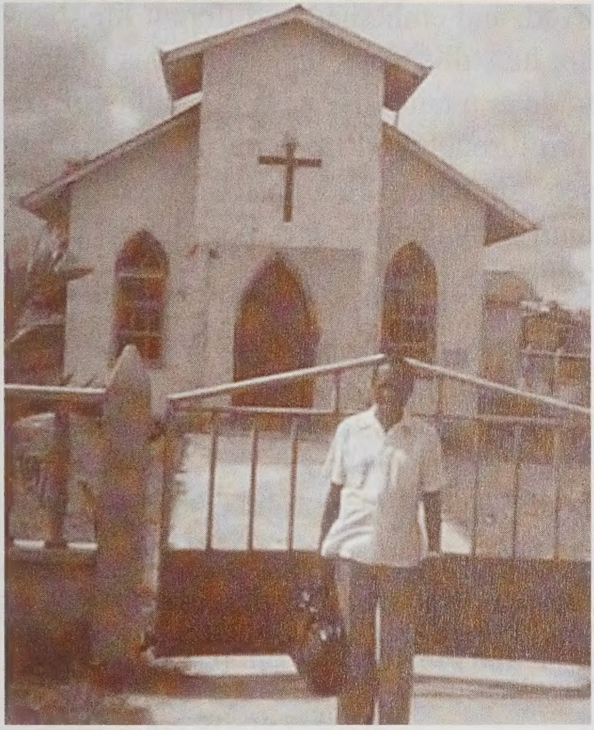


Roberta McClelland

The New People -

The Face of Guyana Today

by Kenneth Stright



Above: Essau Sarran, presiding elder from the Better Hope congregation, ministering to the people of DeHoop congregation.

Who are we who now call
Guyana our homeland…
We're now the land of the six peoples.
Heirs of our indomitable ancestors
who paid the price with labour that was
relentless. Truly, the "meek have inherited".

"We're now the land of the six peoples." Who are these peoples from around the world who make up the nation of Guyana? I've heard various explanations of the makeup of the six peoples. All agree that the Amerindians are included as the original peoples of the land. Then come the explorers (or the exploiters), and the Portuguese or some combination of the above, which loosely might be called European including Dutch, French and British. Then the Africans came as slaves and the Indians and Chinese came as indentured labourers and then… Some say we've more than reached six but all say that yet another must be added - and that is the mix of the peoples who came together creating a new people who are simply 'Guyanese' and not any one originating race.

Race is not an easy topic in Guyana, no easier than religion or politics. But race is one of the crucial ingredients in understanding Guyana and I make no presumption that I 'know' Guyana or understand the unique challenges that are part of creating this nation.

I meet fascinating people and I love to listen to people and hear what is important to them. In listening, I always come away with a fresh glimpse of life, especially as seen through the eyes of another, and I learn.

Brother Arthur Harris has lived a long life and it is fascinating just hearing about his exploits which span nearly nine decades of Guyana's history. They were turbulent years including the war years (during which he enlisted in the rifle corps), the independence years and the difficult and often violent years of trying to make the nation work.

Mr. Harris, as he is known in the neighbourhood in which he lives, is part of another story and that is the story I wish you to hear. I'll let Brother Harris' words tell the story for us.

"My mother was a Hindu and came from India and so my maternal background is completely Indian. Now my father was half white and half Afro. Here that is called mulatto. Three of the founding races of this nation are in my blood but the next generation did a much better job.

"My second son married a woman who is half Amerindian and half Portuguese, so with the grandchildren from my son you have all the originating races of this land. But it doesn't end there. Two of my girls married men from England and now live in Middlesex in England. The oldest son married a Black from America and now lives in Arizona. My final son married a woman half Malaysian and half Chinese.

I have grandchildren who look completely white, completely Indian and completely Black, while the rest look like a mixture. I call it Guyanese - the land of six peoples. This is the face of Guyana today. I like to say that we are all just Guyanese, even those who no longer live here.

"I live by the Christian principles of human relations. That is a very special belief in the relationship of people to one another and to God. I never have a conversation with anyone that does not end in a reference to 'God as our heavenly Father'. That means I am your brother! And you are my brothers and sisters. Everything I know comes from the Ten Commandments, the Twenty-third Psalm, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed.

"People forget the simple things. God lives in you. When you move, God moves in you. Do you realize this? When you realize God moves in you, you live different."

Brother Arthur Harris has certainly lived, and embodied, a different life. Now 88, he still spends his days at his lifelong trade as a tailor. He says that faith will see him through and his faith in Guyana will see this nation though its difficult times until something new is born here - something beautiful for God.

Hail then to you Guyana.
This the day
We move onward with hopeful hearts.
United we will stay;
Through the years, playing each our part.

Excerpts of Poetry from "Saman Sunset" by Ada E.B. Debedin ('Heritage' and 'Song of the Republic'). Ada is a member of Burns' Memorial Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, Guyana.

Below: Ken Stright (centre) with Guyanese friends. Ken was in Guyana for seven months as an interim minister to replace one of the ministers who was elected to Government. He was the pastor of Burn's Memorial in the captial city and three churches in the East Coast Demerara Pastoral Charge. Ken also taught at the Lay Leadership Development Course.

A Prayer for September Mornings...

When It Is Hard To Get Up In The Morning

Gentle Father,

Morning doesn't always come
With a burst of sun
And sparrows' songs.
It doesn't always come
With smiling faces
And "I love you's."
And it doesn't always come
With the certainty of comfort
And stability.

… But it does come.

And it brings with it,
A clean slate,
On which to work.
Fresh possibilities,
In which to believe.
And your abiding love,
Through which all strength,
And hope, can be had.

… Even on the hardest mornings.

Help me,
To accept this strength,
And to embrace this hope,
From this morning onward,
So that I will be able to see the
sun,
To hear the sparrows,
And to say the "I love you's"
Help me,
So that I will be able to reach out
to You,
And to surrender to You.

And so that I will be able to find
the peace of mind,
And the purpose of body,
Which I now seek,
And which I know that my
Saviour's loving will
Has intended for me.

I ask this in the name of Christ,
Our Lord,

Amen.

Roberta G. McClelland

Below: Roberta and friend Harley.

Elders' Institute
Our Mission
The St. Andrew's Hall Institute for Elders' Education
Elders' Institute

The St. Andrew's Hall Institute for Elder Education

by Norah Lewis

A training and educational program for ruling elders? Why would elders require or need training? As Presbyterians we cherish our traditions and our system of church governance which, at its best, provides continuity, the accumulation of wisdom, and churches that are alive in worship, fellowship and mission. At worst, however, it can become a system which allows congregations to become stagnant, ingrown, and without focus.

But, you say, our traditional system has worked well for centuries. As new or additional ruling elders are required, women and men are selected from and by their congregations to assume responsibility for the spiritual and material oversight of their congregations.

They are charged to ensure good order within the church, to contribute to the deliberation and work of their congregations and other courts of the church, and to provide for the pastoral care of the congregation through regular visitation of members.

They are also charged to ensure that public worship is conducted on a regular basis, Christian education is provided so that members of all ages will grow in knowledge and faith and participate in the work and life of the church, and that the congregation develops and maintains programs of mission and outreach.

In addition, ruling elders are responsible for all aspects of stewardship, both spiritual and material, within their congregations.

Eldership is a responsible and, at times, a daunting task as congregations and communities experience rapid change in terms of population growth or decline, shifting economic bases, and changing ethnic groups. In many cases community churches have become commuter churches as a significant number of the congregation live outside the parish. As a denomination we must adapt to change without diminishing or altering the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Consequently, the gifts and skills of leadership, organization, communication, and compassion that elders' bring to their role must be identified and utilized to meet these changes.

There are approximately eleven thousand ruling elders in The Presbyterian Church in Canada; is it possible to provide an educational and training program for such a large and diverse group? At the urging of both ruling and teaching elders, Dr. Brian Fraser, with the encouragement, support and input of the Board of St Andrew's Hall, the Committee of Theological Education, and General Assembly, initiated the Elder's Institute (EI), a three-year pilot project to develop an educational

Right: Some of the Advisory Council members of the St. Andrew's Hall Institute for Elder Education. Norah Lewis is pictured to the left, second row.

and training program for ruling elders.

The expressed mission of the Elders' Institute is "To provoke Canadian Presbyterian elders to lead the church into more faithful, effective, and wise ministry and mission." To fulfill that goal, training for elders is now available through the Elders' Institute. Erin Crisfield, Director, and Matthew Brough, Coordinator of Internet Education, have initiated three types of programs: Online; On the Road; In a Box.

All programs include courses that are related to the ministry of ruling elders. All writers and instructors of courses are selected for their expertise and success in the subjects of their courses. Readings and materials are supplied for each course, and there are fees to cover some costs. Finally, elders can enroll in any or all of these courses and probably not leave their home or community or take time from work.

ONLINE COURSES enable elders to take a twelve-week course from the Elders' Institute while sitting in front of their own personal computers and doing assignments in their own congregations. These courses focus on those areas of concern and responsibility of ruling elders: the organization and constitution of the Presbyterian Church; Christian theology; youth ministry; Christian education; mission and outreach; pastoral care and leadership.

Each registered student is provided with a handbook and any necessary course materials and supplemental readings at no extra cost. While working in the Online classroom, students are able to ask questions of and share knowledge and expertise with instructors and fellow students.

Participants need not be computer whizzes as at the beginning of each course there is a one-week orientation which enables them to try out course tools, find their way around the course website and, through the wonders of the internet, meet their instructors and fellow students. (Matthew Brough is also available throughout the course to provide technical support and help.) One student described Online instruction as a "rewarding way to learn." The fee for an Online course is $200 per person.

ON THE ROAD is a group approach to learning in which congregations, presbyteries, or synods come together in one place for all day or weekend workshops, conferences, or retreats. Themes explored include reviewing the duties and responsibilities of ruling elders, having participants recognize their talents and skills, and identifying, evaluating, and addressing congregational needs.

Participants also discuss goal-setting and ways to initiate changes within their own congregations. Instructors, provided by the Elders' Institute, are selected for their expertise in the topic selected by the organizers. The fee is a flat rate of $500 a day per course regardless of the numbers involved or the location of the event. The Elder's Institute covers instructors' expenses.

The newest program, IN A BOX, aims to offer elders a number of short courses on a variety of topics that include: the roots of eldership; the responsibilities of elders and sessions; the courts of the church. These courses may be used as a basis for study by individuals or sessions, new elder orientation, or as materials for retreats. A copy of the first course, "The Role of the Elder", is provided free-of-charge and is available by mail, e-mail, or by downloading from the Elders' Institute website. There is a charge of $25.00 for each subsequent course in this series.

Has the Elders' Institute achieved its mission of developing a training program for ruling elders? Two-thirds of the three-year project has been completed. A total of fifty-four elders have participated in seven Online courses. The response of Online participants has been positive once they learned their way around the website.

Twenty student who participated in the first five courses and submitted evaluations reported they would encourage others to enroll in Online courses with the Elders' Institute. Hundreds of participants in On The Road workshops and retreats felt they had gained a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities as ruling elders, and that they had learned valuable techniques for planning and implementing programs within their own churches.

To date, "The Role of the Elder" the first course of In A Box program has generated considerable interest. Over 260 requests for copies of the "Role of The Elder," have been received for use by both individuals and groups.

The Advisory Council to the Elders' Institute is composed of ten ruling elders from across Canada, and one representative each from Assembly Office, Life and Mission Agency, and Committee on Theological Education. Helen Pigott, Director of Housing and Operations for St Andrew's Hall and one of those instrumental in initiating the Elders' Institute, serves as secretary. Council members are presenting the work of the Elders' Institute to sessions, presbyteries and synods within their own areas, and making Presbyterians aware that the Elders' Institute is funded by donations from individuals, congregations, Presbyterian organizations, and outside foundations. To date, members of the Advisory Council have either donated or pledged more than $12,000.

Both your prayers and your financial support are essential to the continuation and expansion of work already begun. Please consider contributing financially to the work of the Elders' Institute. No donation is too small and a tax receipt will be issued. For further information about the work of the Elders' Institute, a list of courses presently offered, and an outline of plans for expansion of Online, On The Road and In A Box programs please contact:

Erin Crisfield, Director, The Institute for Elders' Education,
St Andrew's Hall, 6040 Iona Drive,
Vancouver, BC V6T 2EB.
Ph. (604) 822 -1688 or 1-866-794-8888;
Fax (604) 822-9718,
Email: info@eldersinstitute.com

Mrs. Claire's Angels

by Lini R. Grol

Mrs. Claire was a cheerful soul, and staff and patients said that she brought love and laughter to our ward. She was in a four-bed room, two beds at the window, two at the door. This arrangement made for talking back and forth, that is, on days when patients felt well enough.

Mrs. Claire too had known silent days after her major surgery, but not long. "I'm not taking this lying down," she joked scrambling out of her bed.

"I've battle in my blood," when she slowly made her way to the bathroom.

But coming back she called: "My ancestors were soldiers, you know."

And straightening herself she proudly marched like a soldier.

We all laughed and shouted, "Go on, you show off."

Her neighbours shook their heads. They wondered out loud, "How can she be strutting about so soon after her surgery while we are still staggering?"

Yes, Mrs. Claire was remarkable in every way. The day after the doctor had examined her, she shouted to us; "Hey guys, I am going home tomorrow. Wait till I tell Gerry, my hubby. He will be on cloud nine." And off she rushed to the hall to phone her husband.

The next morning she was up early and as usual ran small errands for her roommates. As always babbling cheerfully, she went from one to the other, asking about their wellbeing, and giving them a helping hand. "Gee, that reminds me. Last night I had a wonderful dream. Guess what . . . I dreamed that I was in your bed, Mrs. Johnson, and I heard such lovely music. Then two angels came and said they would take me to a beautiful place. And off we went; they made me feel ever so light. It was strange for I felt happier than I had ever been in my life."

Her eyes shone in wonder, when she looked around at us then at Mrs. Johnson, explaining: "When I was admitted, I had asked for your bed so that I could watch through that window and wave at Gerry and my children when they were coming or going. But the nurse said I could not have that bed, for it was the only one with an oxygen connection, and you needed the oxygen. Now I am glad we both are well and are going home. But that's like me. Now I can get the bed at the window, and I don't need it anymore."

She chuckled and threw up her hands exclaiming dramatically, "The very story of my life." Laughing, she hurried to her bed. "I better get ready, before Gerry comes. I am still toddling around in my underwear."

Indeed her husband was early. He beamed when he saw her, and they hugged like young lovers. Her roommates watched them fondly, and smiled when, with arms around each other, they left.

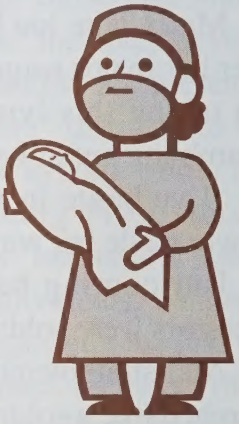
They laughed when Mrs. Johnson said, “That was some angel that came for her, one with dark brown eyes and a black beard.”

The others joked, “Who knows, there may be angels with black beards.” “Yes why not? Indeed, why not?”

We all smiled whenever Mrs. Claire’s name was mentioned, for we all missed her bubbling conversation, but even more her care and her kindness. We pictured her at home with Gerry, her hubby and her children. How happy they all would be, to have her home again.

Early the next morning the ladies were awakened by the admission of a new patient. She moaned when the nurses wheeled her in and lifted her into the bed before the window. Her wide-awake roommates watched with concern when the nurses in an undertone urged, “Quickly, the oxygen. CODE BLUE.”

From the other side of the Bed by Victoria Stirling



Apologies to Victoria Stirling for inadvertently attributing her story, “A Sharing of Pain”, May/June issue, p 15, to Lini Grol, the author of the story on this page. Victoria had sent the story to illustrate her recently published book, “From the other side of the Bed” which was advertised on p 38, March/April 2002.

Her book is a collection of short stories from her many years in nursing. Although she says the sight of blood can make her ill, Victoria’s desire to help others, and her maternal instinct, was what drew her into this profession.

Her stories are told with compassion, sensitivity and often humour. She accepts her work in all areas of hospital life as a challenge, never forgetting her own humanity or that of her patients. Even as a young student she tried to understand her patients’ needs and to provide the care they needed, while protecting their dignity.

Victoria was able to discuss her Christian faith, to read the Bible, and to pray with patients when the opportunity presented itself. Occasionally she took her patient’s petition’s to her own prayer group and sometimes her patients prayed for her.

This is Victoria Stirling’s first published book, although she has been writing for years and has had many stories published, including some in Glad Tidings.

Victoria’s daughter Anne was seriously ill and she needed one on one care. When she experienced her mother’s professional care, Anne says she saw “in her the quintessential nurse. My mother was Florence Nightingale and all she embodied.” It was Anne who encouraged and persuaded her mother to compile all her stories into a book.

I can only add, that if I were in need of such care, I would hope to have someone like Victoria Stirling looking after me. L. June Stevenson

From the other side of the Bed is available from Stirling Publishing, London, Ontario. Order on line: hhttp://annestirling.com/book or send $20 cheque or money order with full name and address to Victoria Stirling, Suite 1112-500, Springbank Drive, London, ON N6J 4G6

Doctors and nurses came and went behind the closed curtains with the well-known emergency cart. The patients knew it was Mrs. Claire. They whispered to each other, “It must be serious.” They frowned when they glanced at each other, showed their mutual concern when they said, “Could Mrs. Claire’s dream of angels have meant something?”

Speechlessly, they watched the nurses and doctors come and go behind that curtain. What had happened? What did they do for her? Each held her breath and all eyes brimmed when they saw Mrs. Claire wheeled out again, but with the sheet over her face. Saddened they looked at each other and at their nurse.

She shared their grief, but trying to comfort them, she said gently: “Remember Mrs. Claire’s dream? If so far her dream has come true she must have been carried off by angels and into heaven. And do you remember that she said how happy she had felt with the angels in her dream?”

They smiled through their tears when the nurse added: “Then she must now be happier than she has ever been in her life.”

I Came Back

I stood in the old farm kitchen
With idle hands in the suds,
And I pondered our conversation
And I heard again her words.

"You know just as well as I do
That when we are dead, we're through,
This talk of a life hereafter
Is just so much bally-hoo."
And I cried in the old farm kitchen,
"Dear God, If I only knew!

"If only I knew of someone
Who has passed to the great beyond,
If such could come back to tell us,
Just how would he respond?
For surely there must be someone
With the knowledge we sorely lack."
And a voice in the old farm kitchen
Answered, "I came back."

My hands in the suds were trembling,
My vision was hot and blurred,
For the voice in the old farm kitchen
Was the voice of the risen Lord.

Ruth McArthur (From "The Road")

Hidden Books Puzzle

by Rosalie Sugrue

Find the 'Books of the Bible' Hidden in this Paragraph

A biblical word game could evoke a lukewarm response in some people. Others admit it usually beats learning facts. Finding hidden books could keep religious pro verb sorts working silently for ages. If you view such activities as a joy, not a job you should find this a most enjoyable puzzle. Perseverance will bring revelation. Yes, there are some easy ones but in all truth you may judge some as maddening. Don't dissolve into loud lamentations. You could get in a jam especially if you look only at whole words. Gene, Sis and Matt hewed each word into pieces. Jud encouraged Johnny to join gaps. For Jon a help was avoiding all punctuation. Nanna hummed a tune. Hemi, a handyman, ignored capitals. A chap from church, Ron Icles, says he brews a cuppa to help concentrate. His wife, Danielle, says it is to keep salm, she means calm. Jo Shua (who invented anti moth yarn) and the son of Levi, Ticus (who sealed the deal) worked together. However, a Corinthian soldier named Abishag gained the most points. From answers found, Jo elected to compile a list. Her numbers totalled 35. Then a gal at Ian's found one more. See how you compete. Really it is fun. Mark my words!

Books to find—listed in Biblical order:
Genesis, Leviticus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Kings, Chronicles, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Lamentations, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Nahum, Haggai, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Timothy, Titus, Hebrew, James, Peter, Jude, Revelation.

Rosalie is the president of the New Zealand Lay Preachers Association. She is a member of the NZ Churches Agency on Social Issues and National Council of Women's Parlimentary Watch Committee. She has held various positions in church womens' organisations and is currently a member of the Presbyterian Programme, Prayer and Study Department. She enjoys writing and has contributed to many church magazines. Retired from teaching and motelling she lives at Raumati Beach with her husband, daughter and grandson.

The Holy Bible: Source of God's Light, Love, and Life

by Ed Mason

The Bible is a book of vital personal religion. The reality, friendliness and unescapableness of God are its dominant themes. In a Psalm like the 139th, where God besets a man behind and before and lays His hand upon him where neither the heights of heaven nor the depths of Sheol can hide a man from God, nor any wings of the morning bear one to such distance as to escape Him, where night and day are alike to the all-encompassing Presence so that when one awakes, he is still with God, we have the experience full blown and beautiful toward which the whole Old Testament has been aspiring. And in the New Testament, this experience is perfected in the filial fellowship with the Father which was the glory of the Master's life and with which He sought to inspire His followers.

(Harry Emerson Fosdick, "The Modern Use of the Bible", 1961, p. 179-180)

When it comes to sharing the Christian faith, my beloved wife Shirley at times reminds me that what is intended to be discussion, turns into "preaching" to others. I ask for forgiveness, but I do suffer from that weakness partially from my experiencing joy and excitement when the Lord gives me the opportunity to share our wonderful faith. And what excitement and joy can be found when the Holy Spirit reveals eternal truths as one reads and/or studies the Holy Bible.

What excitement and joy can be found as one reads and studies the Holy Bible.

To me, the Bible is like a beautifully, skillfully and lovingly created dinner. There, each course is a delight to the palate, to the sense of smell and sight, giving a feeling of pleasure as one savours each mouthful of food. Carefully selected wine, a cup of high-quality tea or coffee with even a delicious liqueur to round off this delicious meal leaves one feeling delightfully comfortable among family and friends. So it is with the Bible!!

What do you mean? you may ask. How can that be—the Bible like a banquet? Well, consider this idea. Think of it as the ultimate feast here prepared for our dinner party. Its glorious creation allows us to "taste and see that the Lord is good."

It is rich in the ingredients of love, forgiveness, salvation, hope, healing and joy, redemption and life-everlasting. It even includes a special "sweet and sour sauce", the hurts, fears, illnesses, suffering and unfulfilled hopes and plans, sweetened with Christ-given hope, healing, joy and comfort; with Christ's redeeming and everlasting love, and the promise of a heavenly home.

It is a feast which brings gladness and joy, a life-revitalizing food which overcomes the ills and disappointments, the spiritual hunger with a nourishing newness of and strength in life. Finally, the Bible opens our eyes to the promise of a great heavenly feast where all God's people, new creations will sit with our Lord; where the hills of heaven will resound to the glorious heavenly music of praise, exaltation and adoration for our mighty Creator as His children's voices fill the heavens as a glorious choir.

I have just remembered that one ingredient of the feast was left out—the chocolate mints. My studies, meditation and prayer have made me realize in my heart and mind that the Bible is the Book of Life for humankind, and even a thousand lifetimes can never end the revelation of love, justice, wisdom, knowledge and mystery of God. For God is always more even to the end of time—and how mysterious and exciting that is! The Bible is an unending feast!

As we all know, prayer offered before reading the Scriptures is of great importance. I came across a beautiful little prayer in Charles R. Swindoll's splendid book, "Simple Faith" which might help. I quote: "It was said in ancient days St. Patrick . . . had this prayer inscribed in his breastplate:"

God be in my head,
And in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking;
God be at my end,
And at my departing. [Sarum Primer 1558]

May that prayer be a blessing to you, and may the Holy Bible be more and more your source of His Light, Love and Life in daily life.

Bible Trivia

Compiled by Eve Stickland

Did you know…

"In ancient times new-born babes were rubbed with salt in order to harden their skin, as this operation was supposed to make it dry, tight, and firm…. The salt may also have been applied as an emblem of purity and incorruption."

Ezekiel 16:4. Holy Bible. New Living Translation, p 920
Manners and Customs of the Bible by James M. Freeman p 304 Logos International, Plainfield NJ 1972

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
(Psalm 118:24 (NRSV)

A Testing Place

by Doris M. Johnston

The sun hadn't shone all week. The clouds were heavy and the trees almost bare. Their leaves were lying in sodden masses, not yet dry from the last three day's rain. Someone had to rake them, I sighed, and as I was home, that someone was me.

"Another horrible day." I greeted my neighbour as he opened his front door.

"Is it? Are the children sick? Has something happened?"

I shook my head. "No. It's just this horrible weather. Always raining, or trying to."

"This is the day the Lord has made," he gently rebuked me, "rejoice and be glad in it."

For a moment I was angry then I thought of what he had said. This was the day the Lord had made. What was so terrible about it? Sure the sky was grey, but I had grumbled when the sun was shining too. I could still work outside, or if it rained too hard I could go inside. My mailman would still be whistling as he carried the mail on his rounds. The garbage man would still be collecting and the paper boy would still be on time.

I glanced over at my barberry bush; its leaves were a beautiful crimson. I should be counting my blessings instead of griping so much. Thank you Mr. Bridle for reminding me.

Not too long after this my mother passed away, ending a long and painful illness. I was so depressed. How could I go on? I had called her or visited with her every day that she had been sick. With the children in bed for the night and my husband at work, the house was mine to cry in, just as soon as I had cleaned that muddy spot on the floor that the dog had brought in.

From the radio I heard an organ playing and a soft voice reading from the Omar Khayyam book of poems: "and this too shall pass away." How many times had I heard my mother say those words when she was sick. Why was I sorrowing? Her pain had gone and my ache of longing too would gradually fade. Nothing lasted. I washed my face and made a pan of cookies.

"This world is not a resting place. It's a testing place." When I first heard those words I wondered what my friend was talking about. I soon found out, and I've thought of them many times since.

"Testing place for what?" I asked.

"Well, it's kind of hard to explain—but when I don't want to do something and I know I should do it I feel that something is telling me I don't have to. I think that it's then I'm being tested. I'll give you an example. You know how I hate talking to strangers?"

Oh yes I knew. She would walk a mile to avoid people she didn't know very well, even relatives if she thought they were coming her way to talk.

"Anyhow, last week coming home from Toronto I stopped at one of those little eating places in the station for a coffee. As I was relaxing I watched an elderly couple and thought how contented they looked. They put on their coats, picked up a couple of parcels and left.

"They were thirty feet away, and about to be swallowed up by the crowd, when I realized they had left a small attaché case behind them. Problem. Should I run after them, or just hand the case in to lost and found? I could just hear my sister saying, 'They won't bite.'

"I picked up the bag and ran after the couple. I tapped the man on the shoulder. 'You forgot your . . .' Before I had finished he had taken his case and in a quivery voice told me what the bag contained.

"All our insurance papers, my cheque—we've just sold our house, our wills, all my personal papers. I don't know what we would have done if you hadn't brought it back to us.

"They would have talked for an hour but I had to catch the train. Anyhow that was just one of the tests and I passed it. I had talked to total strangers and I felt good."

I think of the words of my friends, my neighbours and those of the radio narrator, as well as the words of many others. Because of them I hope I am becoming a better person.

A Prayer

A moment of silence
From the busyness of life.
A quiet thought
Of a hopeful dawn.
Intertwined fingers
Eyes closed.
Listening.
Stillness.
Softly spoken
A prayer
Within our hearts
A deep longing.
Or a searching
for inner peace
for ourselves
for others.
In the silence God is there.

Maureen Kowal

Born Again

by Mary Hagarty

One beautiful spring morning Grandfather Hobbs decided to go for a walk. As he walked along he came upon a little girl kneeling at the foot of her garden and she was crying.

Grandfather Hobbs stopped, looked down, gently touched the little girl on the shoulder and asked, "My goodness little one, what on earth has happened to make you so sad?" The little girl turned up her face to Grandfather Hobbs and although two big tears rolled down her cheeks she had a beautiful smile on her face. "But I am not sad, I am happy."

Surprised Grandfather Hobbs asked, "My goodness then little one, what on earth has happened to make you so happy?" With that the little girl pointed to the ground and said, "Look! Look!" When Grandfather Hobbs looked, sure enough there were five snowdrops, their tiny heads, white as snow, peeping through the warm brown earth. So bright and oh, so beautiful.

The little girl went on to tell Grandfather Hobbs how when the plants had died last year she had been so sad. She thought she would never see them again. But her Mummy had told her if she covered them up God would keep them safe and warm throughout the winter, and they would be born again in the spring.

She looked up and said, "You know what? My Mummy was right. They are alive." Grandfather Hobbs smiled gently and said, "Don't you think then you should now go and tell your Mummy the good news?"

With that the little girl ran across the lawn calling out, "Mummy! Mummy! You were right. They have come alive again. They have been born again."

Grandfather Hobbs continued on his way, smiling to himself, pondering the beauty and the wonders of nature in God's creation and the happiness and hope it had given to the little girl.

Mary Hagarty has been telling stories for many years to the children at St. Giles Presbyterian Church, St. Catharines, ON. This is her first published story. Mary is 77 years young; she has two children, four grandchildren and three gread grandchildren. She has been deeply involved in the work of her church.

"*I*"-Witness

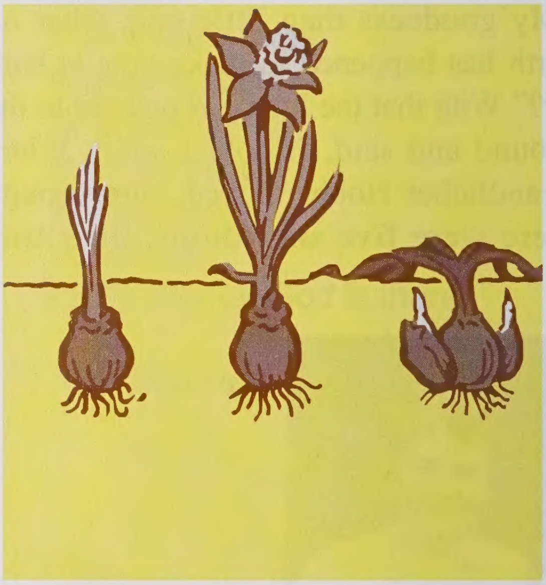
"Out of sight, out of mind. So it was with my half dozen gladiola bulbs stored in the basement. Although late, I prepared them for planting. The outer parched skins came off easily but last years remnants were still fastened to the bottom of each bulb, dry, hard and difficult to remove. Right or wrong, I broke them off and the clean bulbs were planted in anticipation of later blooms.

While doing this, my thoughts turned to St. Paul's teaching in Romans 7 and 8. In a nutshell, as I understand it, we are all sinners from birth. The Lord Jesus came to die on the cross and by His shed blood, remove sin from us. When He was resurrected, by the Power of God, He made us new creations sharing His life and brought us with Him from the grave. When He ascended we went with Him and now we sit together with Him in Heavenly places. (Ephesians 2:6.) How wonderful!

But in my body I am still in the world and I sin when I don't want to! St. Paul had the same problem. The gladiola bulbs have helped me a little to understand the predicament. We have been made entirely new creations indwelled by the Holy Spirit who will never leave us or forsake us. However, on earth we have our bodies of sinful flesh, with its wrong desires, hanging on to us and creating continual war in our being. This war continues until we leave our bodies in death. Until then we have the Holy Spirit to fight for us and with us, the Blood of Jesus for cleansing each time we fall and the assurance we are held by Jesus who is Victor over sin and death.

For faithful warriors the future is glorious. 1 John 3:2 states that we shall see Jesus as He is and be like Him. Amen.

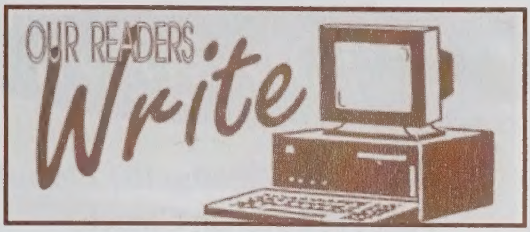
Jean Abrams, Cobourg, ON



Program

Margaret Robertson
Program Secretary

We say "adieu" and wish Margaret well in her new position as minister of word and sacrament at Elmvale and Knox, Flos, ON.



A reader comments on her personal experience related to the articles by Janet Wiebe "Be Prepared: Sexual Harassment in the Church," Mar/Apr 02 and "Doing the Two-Step," May/June 02. The writer has asked to remain anonymous. She admits to feeling shame and guilt over her response to the harassment.

Dear June:
Confusion is a good, descriptive word for both the duration and aftermath of sexual harassment which one has submitted to, in whatever measure, for a time.

Although the sexual advances were held in check to a degree and never approached sexual intercourse, nevertheless you will understand that it never felt 'right' no matter what he claimed that further confused me.

It felt so good to finally have a minister friend who would listen to my life story and (seem to) understand—one who knew me in PYPS days and was so interested in what had happened to me since then. It took a few times of meeting in a quite openly acknowledged way but private enough for me to realize there was a price to be paid for all this understanding!

By then, sometimes I didn't care because it did fill such a need, which was not being met and had not been met through the years by the one from whom I might expect it. When I say 'sometimes I didn't care' that signifies that sometimes I really did care and hated it; therein lies confusion.

When I ended it (and I am so relieved that I was the one who did) he did agree that this couldn't go on.

I'll never forget that first big bear hug —he tenderness of it—that I still never receive where I should, and how good it felt. But the next time there was a confusing move, etc., etc.

Eventually, because of some circumstances in the life of his family, I told my story (confessed?) to two trusted and trustworthy ministers. I felt they needed to know some background. Well, to add to my confusion and humiliation I was told that this had happened before (surprise! surprise!)

Of course, it became evident to me that nothing had been done to stop him. I hope that The Presbyterian Church in Canada has now come further in its ability to deal with these known situations.

I was told by each of these counselor ministers that I was a victim. The therapist I was seeing did not want me to see myself that way but rather to respect myself for taking charge as I did in ending it. Further confusion.

Thank you. It has been good to write this out even to this extent. I now know literally the meaning of being saved by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Anonymous

Dear Editor:
In May I attended the 87th Annual Council of the WMS at Crieff Hills. I was a first time delegate from the Presbytery of Superior, Synod of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. Although I am new to the WMS, I was a member of the AMS for 18 years and I am a Life Member of that Society.

There were many aspects of the Council meeting that I found exciting: The Bible Study and worship leaders were interesting and informative; the PWS&D presentation was very strong, vital and challenging, as was the information provided by Makram Barsoum on the SAT-7 project; Heather Jones' talk of Malawi was filled with optimism.

There were some aspects of the Council meeting that I found disturbing. The motion to spend some of the WMS investment money and the slight debate caused by that motion surprised me—I had always assumed that it was part of the mandate of the WMS to spend money to support Mission projects.

The other reaction that bothered me was the response to the church's Mission Study for 2002-3, about aboriginal issues in our own country. The response of many was strong and unfavourable.

I wonder why we are so ready to learn about discrimination and abuse abroad, but hesitant to do so at home? Perhaps the study should be prefaced with credit given to our residential schools and the people who lovingly taught at those institutions.

That does not negate the fact that many residential schools did have abuse problems, and that we need to acknowledge them and learn from those mistakes. Understanding comes through knowledge and discussion. I have always been impressed with how timely the WMS/AMS studies have been.

The need for social justice is as strong as ever; the need for Christians to work for such justice is as strong as ever. I pray that the WMS continues to move forward in faith and love to meet the challenges of this new century.

Sincerely,

Susan McLennan
First Presbyterian Church,
Thunder Bay, ON

A Promise to Keep

I have a promise that I keep
close to my heart
A promise that God is listening to me
and I matter.
At times my world
seems to come apart
Then I pray
and his presence
is the candle that
lights the dark
paves the way
when my fears
surround me.
A promise to keep
when I'm awake
or fast asleep
A promise you and
I can keep
That we matter.

Maureen Kowal

IN MEMORIAM

Muriel Ledingham

Muriel Ledingham, who died April 17, 2002, served her Lord faithfully for over 70 years through West Point Grey Church, Vancouver, the WMS and the community. A WMS life member, she was president of Westminster Presbyterial and then British Columbia Synodical in which capacity she attended Council and reminded easterners of the needs and hopes of the West.

Muriel was president of the Girls Work Board of BC which sponsored CGIT, was a group leader and also started and led the Explorer group. She was a great collector of items for crafts that might be "useful sometime."

In her home congregation over the years, Muriel led the high school Bible study, taught Sunday school, sang in the choir, was secretary of the board, held various offices in the WMS, chaired the Mission and Outreach Committee and, in recent years, was a strong supporter of our Japanese ministry. Her family was present when our church was dedicated in 1926.

In the wider community, Muriel served for years in the Vancouver Long Term Care program for seniors, receiving an award from the city for 25 years of service. She also received a Canada Volunteer Award for work in community and church. Other commitments included the University Women's Club, the Provincial Council of Women, World Day of Prayer and the Vancouver and District Council of Churches of which she was the first woman president.

Muriel Ledingham

Muriel and her husband George were always ready with a warm reception, marvelous food and thoughtful support for missionaries and other church workers visiting Vancouver.

Muriel carried out all her activities with good humour and enthusiasm and is greatly missed.

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A Path through Loss: A Guide to Writing Your Healing and Growth by Nancy Reeves. Northstone Publishing, Kelowna, BC $20.25

Two words in the title of this book grabbed my attention: loss and writing. When I suffer any significant loss in my life, I usually turn to writing to express my feelings. Often that process is therapeutic. Healing follows.

Dr. Nancy Reeves, a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist asks, "Why write your grief?" She answers that this process enables people to acquire understanding and information about themselves and to move towards healing in ways that are attuned to their personalities.

In A Path Through Loss, Nancy provides tools for the individual's journey. Understanding what grief is and setting goals for yourself are important in the beginning. "A loss is any experience we feel restricts us. The process of healing or growing through this restriction is called grief."

People grieve separation, divorce, death, abuse, life transitions, and the complex implications of these experiences. While there are many avenues of getting help, Reeve's self-guided journal style may appeal to you.

This book is 192 pages: 77 pages of Nancy's guide to writing and the rest with headings and very brief descriptions only, are for you, the reader, to write on.

In straight-to-the-point, tightly packed prose, Reeves leads us through the many blocks to healing such as guilt and loss of energy. She then encourages understanding of symbols, dreams and rituals. She especially offer many ways of helping children deal with loss from which the adult reader can benefit.

L. June Stevenson

All Through the Night. Prayer and Readings From Dawn to Dusk edited by Michael Counsell. Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky $26.50

If you are looking for something cozy, comfy, familiar and traditional to snuggle yourself into some restless, long, sleepless night then this is the book for you. It cuts across the centuries, picking up gems of devotion, thought and prayer from every age and drops them into our hands.

Not only are these treasures discovered for us, they are neatly arranged by topic. So, if you are too weary to sort out your thoughts, no need to sigh, you can just run through the Index and settle on whatever catches your eye.

Yet further, if you would care to improve your meditation or prayer life since you do not seem to be going to sleep, well, the introduction is the neatest, most concise article I have every read on just this growth-exercise. Most helpful! Altogether a blessing, from dusk to dawn.

Marion R. Ballard

Personal Pilgrimage: One Day Soul Journeys for Busy People by Viki Hurst. Northstone, Kelowna, BC $26.25

Any author who includes her cat in the acknowledgements has got to be a special person. Viki Hurst knows how to help others achieve clarity and balance. Writer, teacher, speaker, facilitator, counselor and international business traveler, Viki Hurst is guided by Mahatma Gandhi's suggestion on how to improve the world: "shine the spotlight inward." Gandhi's discerning statement is the kernel of inspiration for Personal Pilgrimage: One Day Soul Journeys for Busy People.

Viki Hurst follows the four traditional phases of a pilgrimage - Heeding the Call, The Night Before, The Journey, and the Homecoming to guide busy readers to slow down and unwind. As a university professor and career counselor, Viki is "especially aware of the time crunch experienced by people who are forever busy." Recognizing that busy-ness is not only a forced way of life today, but also a chosen and welcomed one, Viki's goal is to help people find their own ways to cope and to find a balance.

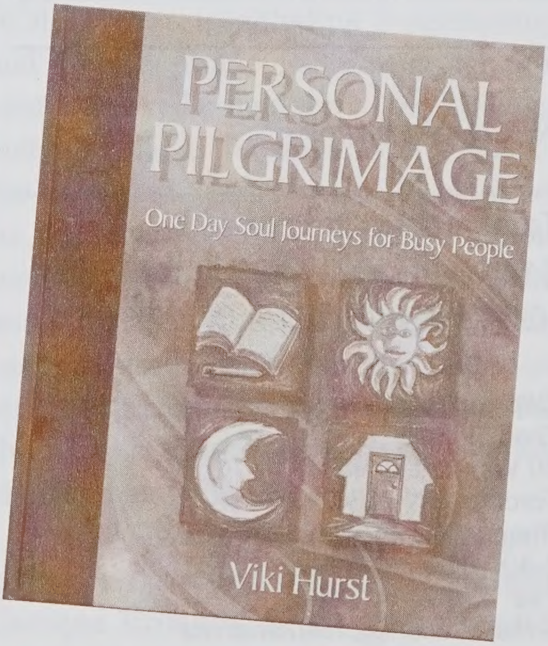
The tradition of pilgrimage predates the life of Jesus and is found in every religion. "This widespread desire across many cultures for contemplative journeying tells me that a pilgrimage may simply be an instinctive notion of the human heart," Viki says but asks where we go when we pilgrimage.

Today's pilgrimage is designed to recognize the busy postmodern lifestyle. Readers can choose their destination, time, theme and inspirational guide to fit their own schedules. To enable people to do this, 12 templates are provided to lead the way.

Thirty inspiration guides make up Part 3 of this book. One to two page stories of individuals from many walks of life offer a starting point for reflection. People as different as Hildegard de Bingen and Jacques Cousteau, Mohandas K. Gandhi and Georgia O'Keefe will inspire you and stimulate your own meditation.

There is space in the template section for notes and journaling, making this a very personal book to own or to give as a gift. A must for busy people who need to respond to an inner urging to encounter holiness, inwardly or externally.

L. June Stevenson



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Forward in Faith

As I write this column, we are well into the eighth month of 2002. In a few weeks our WMS auxiliaries will be involved in their program for the fall season. We trust that all your members have enjoyed a pleasant relaxing summer, in spite of the extreme heat in some parts of our country.

In my position as Treasurer, I always am interested in the financial response of Presbyterials for the work of the Society. As of July 31, the latest figures available, a total of $315,769 was received from our Presbyterials. This is approximately forty percent of our Presbyterial receipts for 2001.

On checking further, I was surprised to note that one third of Presbyterials have not made any financial submission for 2002 as of July 31. As we have indicated earlier, we appreciate receiving contributions from Presbyterials at least every two months. The expenses of the Society are ongoing and must be paid as they are incurred. It, therefore, is helpful to receive the givings from Presbyterials in a routine manner.

We would appreciate the cooperation of treasurers, both local and Presbyterial, who are presently forwarding the offerings of their members in a consistent manner.

As you begin your activities for the fall season, we trust that you will have many rewarding hours of fellowship, study, service and outreach. God bless you.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer.

MISSION IN ACTION

AIRMAIL

VanWissen
Nicaragua
Central America

June, 2002—Warm greetings from Nicaragua, finally green again!

Had I managed to write last month, I would have told you about the terrible drought we were experiencing, and how we went for 10 days without running water! Now that we're in June, the rains have finally come, and with a vengeance, but … no running water again! After 3 weeks of almost daily rain and countless torrential downpours, the rivers have risen and have knocked out our town's water plant. We collect and use the rain water but this past weekend it didn't rain at all so now we only hope the plant will soon be working again.

The good news is that everything is lush and green once again, such a welcome sight after months and months of brown, parched landscape. Forecasts are that it will be a very poor rainy season, and in fact some are still saying that all this rain has been due to a series of tropical depressions and not the true commencement of the rainy season.

Here at SOYNICA we've been buying seeds and seedlings to distribute to the campesino (peasant farmer) families of our Food Security program. It's a busy, exciting time, complicated by the very difficult access to many of the communities because of the swollen rivers and washed-away roads. The southwestern part of Nicaragua has received even heavier rains than we have here in the north, resulting in the flooding of many neighbourhoods of Managua, and the destruction of major bridges and parts of highways.

Last week, we invited about 25 campesinos (mostly women) from half a dozen different communities to visit a fellow campesino's plot. One of the things that most impressed the group was an underground cistern to hold rain water collected off the roof. The water is filtered so it's potable and it can be easily pumped out of the cistern. Some cisterns can hold up to 16 barrels of water!

We organize these 'sharing and interchange' activities on a regular basis because they are such effective learning experiences and they motivate people to try new ideas.

We (the members of the 'SOYNICA NORTH' team, including 5 agronomists and 4 health promoters, among others) recently enjoyed a field trip to the local agricultural college. We took about a dozen of the most interested farmers, to learn with us. Some of them have already made their own fish 'ponds' with technical assistance and financing from SOYNICA, so they benefited from visiting the agricultural college's fish program. We also learned from the College's methods of raising rabbits, chickens, and pigs.

At the national level, the battle against corruption continues. The new president, Enrique Bolaños, promised to create a 'new era' in Nicaragua by adopting a zero tolerance policy on corruption. In the past few months, many operatives for the former presidential administration are being tried and are facing imprisonment for abuse of state funds.

Quest for Peace, a program of aid and 'liberating action' of the Roman Catholic Quixote Center, sums up the current situation as follows:

The country's poor continue to face limited or no access to health care, education, food, potable water, and housing.

The wealthy take what they can get, exploiting public resources for their own personal gain, while the IMF stands on the sidelines as referee, ensuring efficiency at any cost. This is global capitalism in a nutshell.

In this context, it's fulfilling for us to work with the poor, helping them to help themselves.

Denise

Patterson
El Salvador
Central America

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. (Amos 8:4-7 NRSV)

Overseas Staff Birthdays

NOVEMBER

2 - Fernando Cascante, Costa Rica (USA)
5 - Ellen Rae Dai, China
7 - Joe Reed, Central America
16 - Richard Schwarz, Nepal
21 - Jack Geddes, Taiwan

DECEMBER

15 - Rick Allen, Kenya

10% of the population—A local political hopeful (who shall remain nameless) for the governing party built a house near Santa Ana just before the last election in 2000. He lost the election, so he moved to Germany instead. He is a businessman, from a wealthy family, and it is rumoured that some of his money comes from the drug trade with the north. The house is nice. 25 bedrooms, two pools, Central air, a big yard, with a huge wall (built this last year). A family lives there to watch over the property. The house in which he does not live is rumoured to have cost several millions of dollars.

Thunder Bay builders with foreman Transito (rear left) and local helpers, Ahuachapan March 2002

Lakeview Thunder Bay builders with foreman Juan Bautista (rear right) and local helper Jose Colocho, Ahuachapan March 2002

15% of the population—Milton is a medical doctor. He has two children in private schools. His practice (internal surgery) at the private hospital is lucrative. He is studying English and his children are taking extra English classes. He drives a new car, lives in a house with servants, and goes to the north for conferences. Milton is not evidently religious, but he does some pro-bono work when asked. The guess is that Milton would be earning $2300 US per month.

10% of the population—Martin is a middle class Salvadoran. He owns his own house (inherited from his parents), runs a welding shop in the garage of his house, and last year took out a loan from the bank to buy a mini-van to bring in some extra revenue for his family. He and his wife have two nice kids.

Martin works hard. He regularly puts in 12 to 14 hour days. He earns about $600 US per month. He is honest, good to his two employees, participates in his church, and is kind to foreigners...this is a plus in my books.

But Martin is not happy. He wants to be able to educate his children. He would like a secure health care system. He would like to get a good return for the taxes he pays. He does not like the crime and the attendant violence that are on the increase in El Salvador. Martin thinks he would like to resettle to Canada. He dreams of a safer, cleaner country with better prospects for himself and for his family. I tell him about the cold and the higher cost of living, and I mention the current economic and political trends in my country. He, along with 52% of middle class Salvadorans (Prensa Gráfica poll, March 24, 2002), still wants to go north.

10% of the population—Cecia comes from a good, honest, family. She has struggled her way through to receiving her teaching certificate. She is bright. She is an excellent teacher. This year, there are too many teachers in the system. Cecia did not get a job. Her family has a small variety store that may have a net income of $200US per month. From that living there are six mouths to feed. Cecia is learning English so that she can apply for a job in a private school. English teachers are much in demand, due to the large numbers of people who hope to emigrate.

45% of the population—Juan Bautista is a former helicopter gunner, now let go from the military. His meagre pension enabled him to secure a small piece of land which he shares with his brother and family. Juan Bautista has a grade 4 education. He was first apprenticed out to learn the mason's trade when he was 10 years old. He is a happy-go-lucky kind of man. It is hard to picture him as a gunner. He works when there is work to be had. Right now, the steadiest work is the Church's housing project in aid of earthquake victims funded through the PCC. Juan has agreed to work for half his normal wage of $342US per month as his contribution to the housing project. The family live poorly. There are some signs of malnutrition in the children. The prospects for his children are not great. Likely, due to lack of economic resources, they will follow in the father's and mother's footsteps.

10% of the population—Betti is a single mom with two young boys. She was abandoned by her husband a few years ago. Since then, she has eked out survival by making and selling tortillas. She may earn $35US per month. Betti is quite thin. She does the best she can for her boys. They are overly thin also. The family's prospects are not at all secure. The people who buy her tortillas are seeing diminished job prospects and higher living costs (electricity rose 300% last year alone... water is going up also). Many of them now make their own tortillas to save a few pennies a month.

In the midst of all this, the Emperor came to visit. The government spent a great amount of money rebuilding the expressway from the airport to the capital (solid poured concrete reinforced with iron). The Emperor was in town for a total of six hours from landing to takeoff. He spent 50 minutes talking at the region's presidents and another 50 minutes talking at the President of El Salvador. The point of the visit was to demonstrate that El Salvador is a model of development that the rest of the third world should emulate.

Martin, Cecia, Juan Bautista, and Betti did not take much notice of the momentous occasion. They were too busy trying to survive, or dreaming of a better place to live....

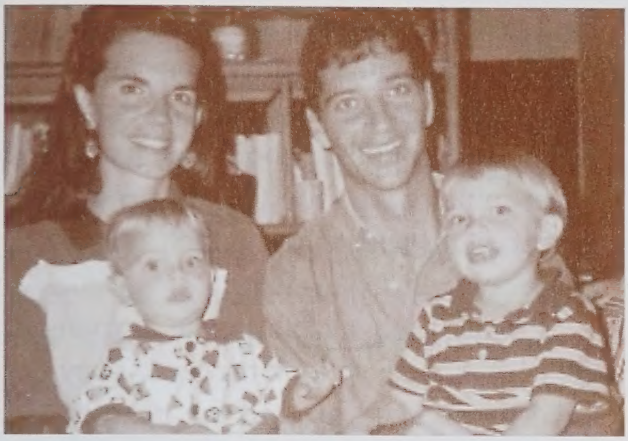
The Emperor left. Nothing changed. And God was watching it all. Was he impressed with the new expressway? Was he impressed with Martin's dreams of a better land? Was he impressed with Cecia's grim determination? Was he impressed with Juan Bautista's generosity? Was he impressed with Betti's desperation? Time will tell.

Jim & Brenda

Allison
Cameroon

Winter 2002 - Back home in Makary. I am thankful to be able to say that it is good to be back home in Makary. When we left here about a year ago for our furlough back in North America, I wasn't sure how I would feel about returning. Yet coming back after being away, we feel again that this is our home. Our Kotoko neighbours gave us quite a warm welcome back. They would exclaim, "Nse kad'agi!" which literally means "days MANY" when they came to greet us. I suppose in English we might say "It's been a long time."

The mango, papaya, guava and lemon trees that we planted before we left are still alive and have even grown a bit! Now we are waiting for them to bear some fruit. We found our house in good shape too, although we are still hunting a few small rodents who have made their home in our roof and come down into the house at night in search of something to eat. They have the body of a mouse but the tail of a



The Allisons: parents Lezlie and Sean, with, left to right, Nate and Josiah.

squirrel and like to nibble on my candles!

We chose a nice time of year to return to northern Cameroon, the "cool season." This way we can slowly adjust to the heat as the thermometer begins to climb in February. In early January it actually dropped to 50F at night a few times. We are determined never to complain about being too cold in Makary though, knowing that we would only regret our words a few months later. But our showers do feel refreshing (brrr!) this time of year.

We were encouraged a few weeks ago when we heard that a Kotoko person had described us as "the white people who spoke Kotoko." Those hours of language study and listening to recorded Kotoko stories over and over again during furlough paid off. We certainly have lots more to learn! In addition to continued language learning, over the next couple of years we want to focus on teaching the Kotoko people to read and write their language. Sean is spreading the word now about a course he will teach in February to interested Kotoko men and women on some of the principles of how to set up a literacy program.

School days

A couple of weeks after we returned to Makary, Josiah and Nate started kindergarten and preschool here at home. Their school day begins with morning devotions and Kotoko language learning with Sean. Then the boys begin work with me on the three R's. In the afternoon, they practice their Kotoko with the neighbourhood children who like to hang out at our fence. Then just before supper, they have P.E. class with Sean. Of course, they don't see that as school at all. They just see it as having fun playing soccer, baseball or football with Dad. So far, the boys seem to really enjoy school. Nevertheless, on Saturday mornings they wake up and cheer, "No school today!"

Our Hero

"When can we EVER get a dog?" Sean and I have been asked this question countless times over the past couple of years by our two boys with longing looks. A few days before Christmas their dream came true. Sean had gone for a day trip to visit some Kotoko villages, and he came home that night with a little cardboard box tucked under his arm. He had seen some puppies for sale in a market and bought one for about a dollar and a half. What a joyful surprise was waiting for Josiah and Nate when they woke up the next morning —a dog of their very own! After much deliberation, they settled on "Hero" for the little guy's name. Sean asked around for the Kotoko equivalent to "Hero." The closest he could find was "Klama" which is the title given to the traditional wrestling champion. Our Kotoko visitors get a good laugh when we tell them our puppy is named "Klama." He doesn't look much like a wrestling champion now, but just give him a year or two! How will I ever keep him fed then? For now he mostly dines on milk and cornmeal or millet mush. Josiah asked Sean what kind of dog Hero is. Sean very proudly called him "an African purebred" - purely bred in Africa.

We have returned to Cameroon with lots of wonderful memories of times spent with family and friends during the past year. We were encouraged as we were reminded by so many that we are being upheld in prayer. We are thankful for the strong support team that you all are for us. Our prayer for you in 2002 would be the words of Hebrews 13:20-21. "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever."

Lezlie, Sean, Josiah and Nathanael

Spring 2002—Does it pay to tell the truth? Truth and Lie finished harvesting their crops, and then they went out together for a walk. They decided to go to a neighbouring village and ask the people there to give them some food. Truth took the lead, and upon entering the village market, he explained that they had just finished harvesting their crops but that instead of eating their own food, they had come to see if the people of that village would give them some food to eat. The people refused.
They went to another village, and Truth told the people how they had harvested their crops but were hoping to eat from the food that other people had harvested. The people of that village refused as well. They went to village after village but each time when Truth told the people they had come to eat some of the food that the people had harvested instead of eating their own food, the people refused to share.

Finally Lie was fed up and, arriving at the next village, he took the lead. They entered the market, greeted the people, and then Lie told them that if anyone had a father or mother who had passed away, he could raise them from the dead. Now both the mother and father of the sultan of that village had passed away. When the sultan was told about Lie's claims, he called Truth and Lie before him. He questioned Lie himself and then led him to the cemetery where his parents were buried side by side, instructing him to raise his mother from the dead.

Lie began to dig up the grave of the sultan's mother. After digging for quite some time, he stopped, then acted as though he were trying to pull something out of the ground. He lifted his head out of the grave and told the sultan that he was in the process of raising his mother from the dead but that his father had grabbed hold of his mother's heel and was intending to rise from the dead as well and reclaim his throne. On hearing this, the sultan told Lie to fill the grave back in. Then the sultan gave Lie a large sum of money, and Lie and Truth went on their way.

Does it pay to tell the truth?

This Kotoko folk tale would seem to suggest otherwise. This past February we ran a course in the village of Makary, teaching a group of young Kotoko men and women how to develop the materials necessary to run a literacy program. The goal of this program is to teach the Kotoko how to read and write their language. Developing written materials that the people will learn to read is an important initial step in the program. Stories like the one above are a good starting point since the people are familiar with them, and they can therefore anticipate the story line as they read.

Josiah and Nate love for me to tell them again and again the Kotoko stories that I've been analyzing. I admit I'm often at a loss to understand the moral of many of these stories, as there is so much of the culture that we don't yet understand.

So does it pay to tell the truth? It may not seem so at times, but it always pays to tell of the Truth.

In the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Sean, Lezlie, Josiah and Nathanael

International Ministries support for the Allison's ministry is $5,000 from the regular budget.

Brown
Jobat, India

Christmas 2001 - As this letter begins, many greetings from Canada and other places have already arrived and so they are so beautiful and welcome, setting the stage for a wonderful season. This year Christmas and New Year's celebrations will be enjoyed at home in Jobat. My cousin, Doreen Jackman, came from Toronto in early December and plans to be here for several months. It will be fun to "experience" the festivities through her eyes.

This year has been interesting with much travel, opportunities to visit new and familiar places and meet old and new friends. The first quarter of 2001 was busy with the usual tasks involving the health and village development programs, Boards and committee meetings.

Our Medical Board is involved with a few court cases, mainly centering around property. So far, by God's grace, decisions have been in favour of the Board, which ultimately means CNI - and so we continue. It is surprising how quickly one becomes used to going to court and sitting for hours.

The three spring furlough months in Canada went by incredibly swiftly! It was wonderful to meet so many in central and western parts of the country, and to enjoy such open-hearted hospitality.

Also, please accept my appreciation for your messages of congratulations following my investiture into the Order of Canada. That was the experience of a lifetime, and it was made all the more meaningful with my brother, Claude, sharing the experience (only one guest is permitted).

After the event - investiture, reception, dinner and special meeting with her Excellency (to present her with a Bhil bow and arrows), Claude's summing up was, "after witnessing this event I won't mind so much paying Income Tax for the next few months."

Beautiful receptions, held by my home Church family, St. Giles, Ottawa and our Board in Toronto afforded heart-warming and greatly appreciated opportunity to meet with so many dear ones, some after many years.

One much looked for change occurred in the latter quarter of the year: my colleague of over 12 years in the Village Development Programme, Sanjeev Salathiel, has been appointed as Programme Coordinator. I am truly delighted that Sanjeev has taken over and know that, with all his experience and skills, he will do a great job.

Pauline Brown

November 20 was a Red letter day for me. Fifty years ago on that day I stepped off the P&O ship "Chusan" in Bombay and felt, "I've arrived." That feeling persists still, after five decades. I thank and praise God for His faithfulness over the golden years. He must have been taxed innumerable times with this recalcitrant servant. But how gracious and kind He is. Joshua 1:9 has been my "Ebenezer." Also a "must" to be recorded is my appreciation to two churches: The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Church of North India, for having sent and supported, and for having received and supported me through so many wonderful years. No doubt their patience has been sorely tried many, many times. So much more could be said on this subject!

For each of you, for your friendship, loyalty and love, my heart is lifted in thanksgiving to our Father, and for coming year my prayer is that He will supply all your needs according to His holy will for you, and that you will be experiencing His grace and love day by day.

Pauline

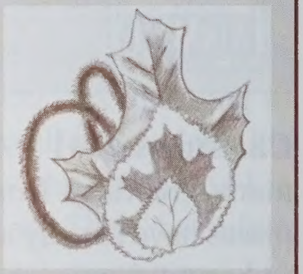
Crafts for the Young at Heart

Autumn/Thanksgiving Napkin Rings

Supplies

Brown pipe cleaners

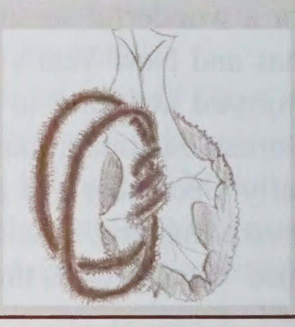
Variety of artificial leaves in different colours and sizes



Instructions

Wind pipe cleaner into circle large enough to hold napkin (about 5" in circumference. You will have two rings for each napkin)

Glue three or four leaves on. Enjoy!



NEWS

Church coalition calls on BC government to abandon decision

(OTTAWA July 19, 2001)—The inter church justice coalition KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives is calling on the B.C. government to reconsider its July 3 announcement that results of a recent referendum on treaty negotiations will be binding on future land rights talks with First Nations in British Columbia.

In a letter sent to Gordon Campbell today, KAIROS strongly urged the Premier of B.C. to abandon the results of a "misleading, deeply flawed referendum". Only 35 percent of British Columbians responded to the B.C. referendum on treaty negotiations.

In May, KAIROS publicly opposed the referendum, calling the questions manipulative and confusing. KAIROS also charged that the wording of the referendum ballot implied First Nations currently receive benefits that are not available to other Canadians, while obscuring the fact that Aboriginal peoples are involved in a treaty negotiation process grounded in constitutionally recognized rights.

In its letter to the Premier, KAIROS called for assurances that those constitutionally recognized, court upheld Aboriginal rights rather than the referendum results continue to form the basis of the B.C. government's negotiations with First Nations.

"The provincial government's proclamation that the referendum results constitute a mandate for treaty talks is deeply troubling because it indicates a willingness to adopt negotiating principles that are both unconstitutional and go beyond provincial jurisdiction," states Ed Bianchi, Coordinator of the Aboriginal Rights education and advocacy work of KAIROS.

"Above all, one has to ask why the B.C. government would adopt negotiating principles that obviously will be unacceptable to First Nations," adds Bianchi.

For example, 87.2 per cent of respondents in the referendum said "yes" to a question that asked whether Aboriginal self government should have the characteristics of local government, with powers delegated by the federal and provincial government.

"First Nations cannot be expected to accept a municipal style of government when their sovereignty and right to self government is not only guaranteed in the Constitution but has been repeatedly affirmed in the courts," states Bianchi. "The provincial government is threatening the survival of a treaty negotiation process that represents the just and fair way to resolve outstanding rights issues."

Aboriginal leaders are already talking about abandoning negotiations and pursuing alternatives, including the courts, direct action and dealing directly with the federal government.

KAIROS' letter to the B.C. government concludes: "Another failed attempt to resolve Aboriginal title and land rights issues will only increase tensions among Aboriginal and non Aboriginal peoples, adding to the economic and social uncertainty that threatens the well being of all. "

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives is a national organization that continues the work of the former Aboriginal Rights Coalition, along with the justice work of ten other previously independent ecumenical coalitions. KAIROS includes The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

In the Society

Synodical

Here's a creative way to report!

Area Secretary's Report
Toronto/Kingston Synodical 2002

Most of the local groups and Presbyterials are suffering from the same chronic conditions,
Aging members, trouble attracting newcomers and difficulty filling executive positions.
The right time for meetings is difficult to get,
Afternoons, good for the older members but evenings, perhaps, for the younger set.
Changes and restructuring are words that are repeated often,
To promote WMS to all, not just for "older women."
OLDER WOMEN! Let me get something clear.
Surely they couldn't mean any of us here.
A variety of programs and speakers, our groups do present,
From a prison chaplain, used to a captive audience, to a Knox student.
Numerous special events happen but two not so ordinary,
A Biblical Fashion Show and Quilting in February.
Once again a request is made for unique fund raising ideas. That's unique, not just your run of the mill,
And if anyone has any, please, send them along to Jill.
Hey, how about a Biblical Fashion. That's unique I believe.
Just don't ask me to come dressed as Eve.
Our WMS helps so many people, the old and the young, too.
To give you an idea, I'll name just a few.
Imagine, you're down on your luck, no job, no home, you've become much thinner.
Then a WMS lady serves you at the Soup Kitchen, a Good Friday breakfast or a New Year's Eve dinner.
You go to the hospital to visit a friend you have met.
There's that WMS lady visiting with a card and fruit basket.
She notices the old tattered coat that you hold.
So, out of her van, she gives you one for the donations she's taking to "Out of the Cold."
Imagine, you're a youth on a mission trip and you're in need of some supplies.
You receive, from that WMS lady's group, a monetary donation. What a surprise!
Imagine, it's colder in Malawi, you're a tiny baby shivering through your nap.
But thanks to that WMS lady, you have a pneumonia vest, afghan and cap.
You are that WMS lady and there are many more to be found.
For "older women," we sure do get around.
Our WMS is so willing to serve, no matter who, no matter where,
And you can be sure that WMS will remember you in prayer.

Jill Pardy, Press/Historian Barrie Presbyterial, Area Secretary Synodical

Another creative way to report!

First Timer Shares her Impressions of Synodical

In spite of pain and discomfort, thankful to attend!

Day 1 - April 23, 2002

Good traveling companions; the luxury of being driven by a capable driver and a great navigator; the beauty of the countryside along the back roads; seeing "Jumbo" for the first time—that lovely, big old Knox Church, St. Thomas; the warm welcome we received; the many stairs; the great elevator; the cushy carpet on vestibule and stairs, a dark blue with a leaf pattern in shades of pink and rose.

When we gathered in the sanctuary, noticing all the "grey power" in evidence, empowered by the Holy Spirit! Seeing six other women with canes beside myself and even one on crutches; many good books to browse through and purchase; tasty ham and salad lunch; the pleasure I experienced chatting with complete strangers, the topics being everything from shared sciatic pain to church décor; being in awe of Rev. Karen Horst's dynamic delivery and being touched by her stories; the enjoyment of singing good old hymns; the wonderful roast beef dinner.

In the evening the outstanding music from the organist, on organ and grand piano with bass and drums accompaniment; the beautiful contralto singer who sang spiritual and gospel tunes; the moving communion service to wrap up the day, and the lovely starry night when we left.

Early morning start to find the heater in our room wasn't working; then the warm hospitality of the motel owners, providing us with coffee and warm muffins, and an offer to drive us over to the church; being thankful for another sunny day; taking part in the morning worship service; our President Eunice playing "Amazing Grace" softly while I read the poem "Miss Me" for in memoriam; Shirley Aitcheson's timely meditation; Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs's enthusiasm; the good resource material she had for us; another tasty lunch of stew and rolls; the expertise of the Synodical president Carol Mackowski to keep the business moving along; the sense of humour; then saying good-byes; looking forward to next year's synodical in Wingham; relaxation and laughter on the trip home; the pain when I got out of the car; the comfort of my recliner and finally my own bed; the thankfulness that I was able to attend.

Shirley Huckins, secretary, WMS Afternoon Group, Knox, Goderich, ON

The Synodical of **Southwestern Ontario** held its Annual Meeting at Knox, St. Thomas, ON April 22-23. Following Rev. Dr. Hume's warm welcome, President Carol Mackowski opened the meeting with prayer.

The opening scripture Isaiah 35:1-10 established the meeting's theme Touch the World and was presented by Niagara Presbyterial members. Guest speaker Rev. Karen Horst, St. Mary's, gave a fascinating and informative presentation of mission sites she has visited.

Joanne Instance, Winnipeg, President of Council Executive, spoke on the WMS and her role as president. Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, AEC, presented "Educating for Mission."

Synod/synodical staff Rev. Gwen Brown and Spencer Edwards gave glowing reports of Camp Kintail and Youth conferences.

The election and installation of officers was conducted by Joanne Instance and Rev. Sarah Kim.

Enthusiastic singing gathered the 200 delegates and visitors to the sessions over the two-day period.

Presbyterial

Bruce-Grey Presbyterial Gladys Sim Children's Rally was held at Knox, Walkerton on May 25. A group of 57 children, youth and adults from surrounding congregations attended.

The theme African Safari was actively and vocally lived out under the leadership of Caroline Patterson and Terry Cook of Walkerton. Each child as their favourite animal boarded Noah's Ark, which through storytellers Susan Smith and Barb Clarke became very real—and such fun!

Nature slides and commentary by Mrs. Truss Dale, Meaford, added to and increased the marvel of creation. As crafters the children added to their take-home bag their origami, door knobs and coat-hanger mobiles.

Hot dogs, cupcakes and fruit juice were quickly consumed, energizing more singing and games. The day was rounded off with ice cream sundaes before leaving for home. The freewill offering will be donated to the Ukraine Project (bread fees for school children). This is an annual event sponsored by Bruce-Grey Presbyterial.

Oak Ridges Presbyterial Annual Meeting was hosted by Fraser, Tottenham, ON on April 6. Rev. Bryn MacPhail welcomed everyone and served communion.

Eldora Nevils led the "In Memoriam" with women from various groups sharing memories of their deceased friends.

Lynette Glegg brought greetings from East Toronto Presbyterial. Mary Forster and Ellen Parker led rousing sing-alongs. Rev. Lynda Reid discussed the revision of the WMS Constitution and By-laws.

Guest speaker was Wilma Welsh who took us on a meaningful and often emotional journey of her years on the staff of International Ministries. She assured us that we do make a difference.

Ellen Parker, retiring president, after seven years of faithful service was presented with a gift.

Rev. Lynda Reid installed the new executive. Oak Ridges Presbyterial hosted Synodical 2002 at Richmond Hill Church.

Edmonton Peace River Presbyterial met at First Church, Edmonton for a dinner meeting on May 31. Rev. Ray Glen said the grace.

Before dinner the sacrament of Holy Communion took place. Those taking part in the Communion Service were Rev. Wayne Menard, Dr. Raymond Grant and Pauline Grant.

Later Wayne Menard reported on his attendance at the recent WMS Council Meeting. Then Bertha MacKenzie, WMS delegate from this area, gave her impression of the meeting showing handcrafted cards from Malawi and literature on various mission fields and personal pictures.

Seventy-two members of **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial registered for the Spring Rally in Knox, Stratford. Bernice Richards, second vice-president, was in charge of the meeting. Guests were welcomed by Mary Scott.

The Bible study, based on the theme of the meeting Clothed for God's Service was conducted by AEC for Southwestern Ontario, Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs.

Shirley Aitcheson chaired the reports from the Synodical in St. Thomas, given by delegates who attended.

The roll call was answered with the name of a woman in the Bible. It was interesting to note the number of women present who had Biblical names.

Lois Horne reviewed a few books available from the book table.

Following supper Mary Scott introduced a mixed quartet, Friends, who sang several numbers a cappella.

Mary Duffin was commentator for a humorous biblical fashion show. She was assisted by Bernice Richards with Lois Kipfer at the piano, and Bonnie Wray as the director. The fashion models were Kerry Kipfer, Muriel Wray, Verna Willows, Jean Cameron, Judy Scott, Isobel Diehl, Eva Duffin, Bev. McDonald and Barbara McCallum.

The offering was received by Cranbrook WMS and dedicated by Yvonne Knight.

Jean Aitcheson introduced guest speaker Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs who explained the responsibilities she has as AEC.

Evening Vespers were conducted by Helen Dunseith and Marie MacLeod, Harrington WMS. Courtesy remarks were given by Mary McCue, Listowel.

Brockville Presbyterial met at St. Paul's, Kemptville, ON for their May Rally. The theme for the day was Equipping the Laity. Eileen Chambers sang two selections to inspire the laity to witness.

Rev. Dr. Fred Rennie led the study, "Making a joyful noise." Reformers Luther and Calvin gave congregations permission to sing praise again and in their own languages. Our first Canadian hymnal was published in 1880. He stressed hymns should be scriptural as well as joyful praise and be sung suitably for the occasion and times we live in.

Judy Messenger moderated a panel on the laity consisting of Mary Moorhead, Christina Ball, AEC, and Fred Rennie. It was agreed through workshops and study that all ages in a congregation should be equipped for service in the church in today's world. The teaching elder should prepare people to face the world.

The newly prepared catechism was recommended. Catherine Blatch thanked the panel.

For the past number of years, **Kingston** Presbyterial has enjoyed a June outing to Amherst Island. This June was no exception. On a very wet day, some 40 of us took the ferry to the island. At St. Paul's Church we were warmly welcomed with tea, coffee and muffins. St. Paul's is a beautiful old building in a gorgeous setting.

Joy Tufts helped us, once again, to be aware of the power of prayer, leading us into our group prayer time.

Louise Wannamaker and Olive Brinson entertained with a skit on The Lord's Prayer. We enjoyed a time of singing, ending the day with a solo "Amazing Grace" by Amanda Thompson—such a talented teenager. We were fed a delicious lunch.

Peterborough Presbyterial met at Centreville Church, the occasion marked their 120th anniversary. At lunchtime a decorated anniversary cake was served. Cutting the cake were four past presidents of Presbyterial: Joan Smith, Jean Coull, Holly Hall and Jean Abrams.

The worship service was given by Norwood; musical number by Holly Hall and Jackie Kelly. The Book Room was open. Rev. Anne Blane of Centreville Church extended a welcome.

The speaker of the spring meeting was David Blondel, a youth worker at St. Paul's, Peterborough. A college graduate in youth skill, he offered several challenges which work well with young people. Thanks and a gift was presented to him by Jean Coull.

A skit, "Light shines in the darkness" with Thelma Beairsto, Muriel Bell, Joyce Buttars, Pauline Garvey and Joan Smith was presented.

The Mary and Martha group of St. Andrew's, Strathroy, opened their doors to the spring rally of **Sarnia** Presbyterial on May 30, 2002. We were welcomed by Donna Smedley, President of Mary and Martha. Anna Jean McCoskery, Presbyterial President, conducted a short business meeting.

We are still working toward our Myanmar mission project. Joan Wagner shared her talent of music with us.

Rev. Evelyn McLachlan of Parker St. United Church, Sarnia, showed her slides from her trip to El Salvador. She learned from people there the difference between what you want and what you need. Evelyn also displayed many artifacts from El Salvador.

Three members closed the meeting using a devotion written by Fleur Eenkhoorn.

Barrie Presbyterial Annual Meeting was held at Jubilee Church, Stayner, May 28. President Evelyn Horne constituted the meeting. A welcome to all was extended by Rev. Tim Purvis.

The theme Be still and know that I am God, Psalm 46:10, was evident in the devotions presented by the Collingwood WMS.

"Georgian 3X2" sang three special music selections.

Annual reports were received and business was conducted. Marie Schandlen presented an excellent book review. A memorial service remembering ten faithful members was led by Jean McNiven. Hilda Briggs led in a prayer for missionaries. Betsy McClure installed the officers.

After a delicious dinner, June Campbell led in a sing-along. Jean Jones introduced the speakers. Evelyn Horne showed slides and spoke of her recent mission trip to take much needed medicines and school supplies to Juan G. Hall and the Center for Christian Reflection and Dialogue in Cardenas, Cuba. Barbara Nawratil, Mission Interpreter from the national office, provided valuable information on arranging a mission trip.

Courtesies were given by Elaine Steele. The meeting concluded with a benediction in unison.

Local

Westminster Church, Ottawa, ON has not had a WMS group for two years but a

Above: Westminster CGIT group 2001-2002. Left to right Co-leader Carol Ann Miller, Natalie Gauvin, Co-leader Sharon McNaughton, Michela Fisher, support staff Audrey Miller, Emily Payne and Shirley Saindziuk, support staff.

Westminster Women Together (WWT) group meets once a month. The program is varied with many different speakers and discussions. The group has an annual retreat at Gracefield. The WMS folded two years ago as the women were mostly in their late 80s and 90s. The WWT is composed of younger mid-life women.

CGIT has 'risen from the ashes' and had a fantastic year. This very active group used the mission study on the Ukraine. On their February retreat weekend at CGIT Camp Kalalla they made breads. Their mission money was made from selling assorted breads at the coffee hour: in 20 minutes they made $525—three girls and two leaders. In September they will double their numbers as more girls become 11 years old.

The Presbyterian Women's group of **St. Columba, Belleville**, ON conducted the worship for Mission Awareness Sunday April 28, and celebrated the event by awarding four young persons with Certificates of Recognition for their outstanding contributions to the congregation.

Recipients were Stephen Brown, Jordan Hill, Joanne Grebby and Daniel Beattie. The presentation was made by newly installed President of Toronto-Kingston Synodical Doreen Dath, assisted by the minister, Rev. Alan Barr.

The **Margaret Ramsay Auxiliary of Knox, Leamington** donated in memory of Marie Faber, 1894-2002, a devoted worker for the WMS for many years, a "missionary information board." Standing beside the board (above) is the Rev. Scott McAndless, minister of Knox and Carolyn Reid, president of the auxiliary.

The Children of the Church and WMS of **Osgood Church, Vernon, ON** held their June meeting in the church auditorium. Five young folk, above, told of their study of the people of the Ukraine; their culture, games, schooling and work.

They opened the meeting with Ukrainian music from a cassette tape; Ukrainians themselves telling of the Bear Game and the need for lunches for school. The Bread & Butter video was shown which told a little of the complex history over these past generations.

The young people had a display of the work they covered in the meetings which are held during the Sunday School time one Sunday a month.

All Ukrainian dishes were prepared by the women for lunch. Twenty-two attended the meeting.

Recently Mission Awareness Sunday was held in St. Andrew's, Welland, ON. Those taking part in the service were above from left: Nancy Leslie, Marilyn Leslie, President of the Women's Association, Shirley Barnhart and Dolores MacLeod.

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

By now your congregation will have received the Glad Tidings mailing which was sent in August to all Glad Tidings secretaries/contact persons whom we had listed by your congregation during the year. It contains the list of subscribers and ideas for promotion. If by mid-September the Glad Tidings secretary for your congregation has not received the mailing please contact our office.

An item in the January 1934 Glad Tidings reads: "At this time of the year a number of people are very busy making up excuses for not taking the Glad Tidings. 'I never read it; It costs too much; I read the same thing in the Record; Am not interested in missions,' are some of the excuses. It has been said, 'There is a vast difference between a reason and an excuse.'"

What will your response be when the Glad Tidings secretary approaches you about renewing your subscription? Hopefully you will respond by giving her $11.00 towards a year's subscription. The deadline is November 1, 2002.

If your group is disbanding you can still subscribe to the magazine. You can either appoint a contact person for your congregation or subscribe individually. It is helpful to still return the subscription list to the Glad Tidings office as we need the information on the lists to make any appropriate changes.

ANNIVERSARY

Mission Awareness Sunday was a special event at Knox, Belmore, ON this year as the WMS celebrated its 50th anniversary. Pictured below are past presidents, left to right (standing) President 2002, Vicki Jacklin, Marjorie Dryell, Janet Inglis, Marion Mundell, the first president, June McBurney, Marilyn McPherson and Lynda Fitch. Seated is Isabel Jeffray, the first vice-president and Mildred Dickson Dupont.

Above: Frank and Agnes Conkey and daughter Sheila at a 50th anniversary celebration held at St. Andrew's, Pickering, ON of Agnes' designation as deaconess. More next issue.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Margaret Dickson
Margaret (Peggy) Inglis
Atwood, ON

Miss Beth Donovan
St. Giles, Calgary, AB

Helen Wilson
St. Andrew's, Dresden, ON

Margaret McKillop
Knox-St. Andrew's, Dutton, ON

(Wilhelmina) Mabel Kelm
St. Paul's, Eckville, AB
(lately of Cochrane, AB)

Mrs. Marion Eccles
Amos, Dromore, ON

Jean Robertson Swales
St. Andrew's, Guelph, ON

Marie Faber
Knox, Leamington, ON

Mrs. Muriel Leask
St. Paul's, Leaskdale, ON

Mrs. Maude Deline
Mrs. Jean Mouck
St. Peter's, Madoc, ON

May McCurdy
Erskine, Ottawa, ON

Evelyn McGregor
Westminster, Ottawa, ON

Mrs. Jessie Bullis
Mrs. Norma Devereux
Mrs. Marjorie (Clifford) Lantz
Mrs. Dorothy Lee
Mrs. Grace Smart
Mrs. Phyllis Thompson
Mrs. Mary Wilkie
Paris, ON

Mrs. Fanny Walker
Glebe, Toronto, ON

Mrs. Donna Creates
Willowdale, ON

Jean Ross Cavanagh
St. James, Winnipeg, MB
(formerly of First, Winnipeg, and Kerrisdale, Vancouver, BC)

We can make a difference.

photos: Hege Opseth, ACT International

You can help. Please support PWS&D.

PWS&D, together with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Action by Churches Together, is helping the Blantyre and Livingstonia Synods of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian distribute critical food and seed supplies to vulnerable people in Malawi. We are making a difference. Since Livingstonia Synod began feeding young children and their families they have seen 90% of the children gain significant weight and many children return to school.

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr.
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
tel: 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301
www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

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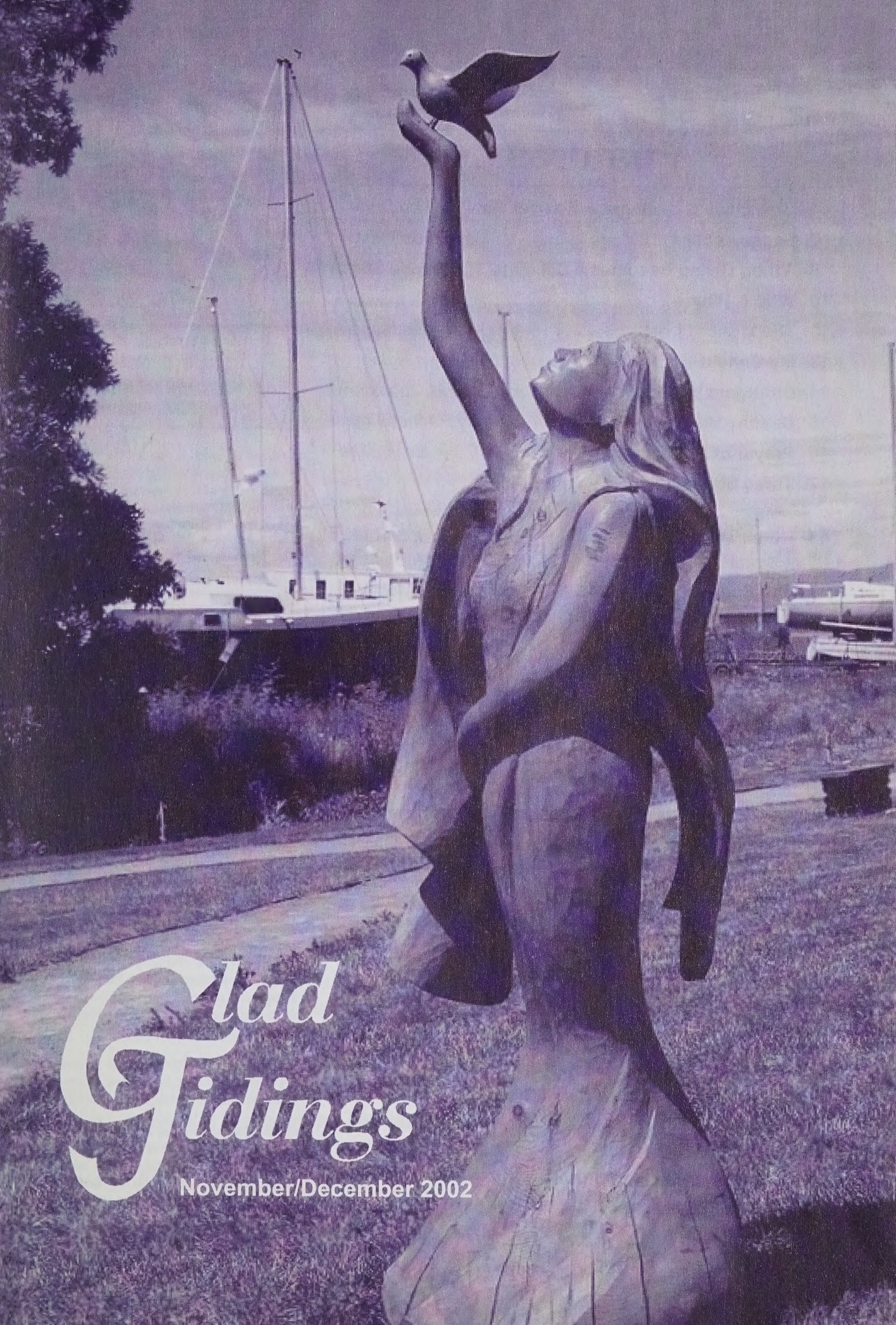
Glad Tidings

November/December 2002



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Glad Tidings

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GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

November 2002

Receiving Without Guilt...

Matthew 10:8 - *Freely ye have received, freely give.* **KJV**

"When Giving Becomes a Dilemma" by Maria Stam, page 8, set me thinking. In two weeks alone I received over 12 mail solicitations. Among other things, Maria questions the practice of fundraising organizations sending out gifts such as address labels and greeting cards. "Would it not be better if they spent the money needed for buying the cards and labels directly to the charity they are representing?"

I approached several charitable organizations with her questions (see p 9). I was reassured that the amount of money raised through "premium" gifts, as they are called, far outweighs the cost of production and mailing. I was also told we shouldn't feel guilty about using the "gifts" without contributing to their cost, or about giving them away to someone who will use them. Neither should we feel guilty about not giving to every organization that sends free gifts. It's a successful marketing strategy, and it works well (even without your contribution or mine).

You and I can decide whether or not we get these mailings. One responsible action we can take is to notify charitable organizations if we don't want to receive "premium" mailings or any other kind of mailing. That way we won't feel guilty and our recycle boxes won't be overflowing. My New Year's resolution is to do just that. I am saving all the mailings I receive to create a form letter I can send.

The idea of gifts and gift giving runs throughout this issue, not unusual at this time of year. We are reminded in the worship service to give more of ourselves to others. Roberta McClelland's lovely reflection "Room at the Inn" encourages us to be open to the needs of others so that there may be room in our inns and our days. An eccentric busybody on a bus proves helpful to others in spite of being regarded as nosey in Doris Johnston's story "Strangers Within our Gates."

On my summer holidays this year I sorted out all my wool, packed some up for the Goodwill and put the rest in plastic containers. Then I finished up several knitting projects for Christmas presents. I brought a box of embroidery thread to the office to send to the women in Malawi who run a greeting card making project. I washed some old towels and folded them ready to take to the veterinarians the next time I go, having had two sick cats in hospital this summer. The hats, pneumonia vests and afghans you so lovingly make are a challenge to staff here but delightful gifts of the heart to mothers overseas.

Receiving without guilt. As Christians, we should be familiar with that concept. God has given us the greatest gift of all with no strings attached. As we have been given, let us too give, freely, at Christmas and all through the year.

A Special Gift

by Lori Dunn

Suggestion: Have a small Christmas tree decorated with a star on top, to lead the wise men; candy canes for shepherds' crooks; and lights representing Jesus, the Light of the world.

Leader will have wrapped or have ribbon around 8 small boxes with gift verses in them, and given to designated people to read.

Hand out blank paper and pens to all.

Call to Worship: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 KJV)

Hymn: Child in the manger #136 (1972 BOP) or Unto us a child is born #160 (1997 BOP)

Prayer: We come to you humbly in prayer, thankful that we can come before your throne of grace and talk to you. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ we thank you that you sent your Son as a gift to us to show us the way to eternal life in heaven with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Meditation: At this time of year we are all caught up in the rush of Christmas activities. It is too easy to forget the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus our Saviour, who came to bring peace on earth and teach us about God's love. Gifts, baking, decorating seem to take priority. Let us think about Christmas shopping in a different way. Here are gifts for all of us.

(Designated people read verses and place the gift boxes under the tree.)

Gifts: #1. I wish for you the gift of a tranquil spirit
And dependence on God above;
A warmness only exceeded
By His deep, abiding love.

#2. I wish you this Christmas the gift of peace,
A peace that comes from Christ,
A peace of heart and soul and mind
That will with each day increase.

#3. The wise men brought gifts
Of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
God wants us to give Him our hearts
With a love sincere and pure.

#4. I wish for you the joy that Mary must have felt
As she held her newborn child, the Son of God.
May we always feel that joy and wonder
As we think of the love of Jesus for us.

#5. I wish for you the gift of trust,
Trust that the Virgin Mary had in God
When the angels told her
She would give birth to the Son of God.

#6. I wish for you the gift of faith,
The faith that Joseph had in Mary, and in God,
So that he did not desert her during her pregnancy.

#7. The best gift we can give to those we love so dear
Is a portion of ourselves,
Because Jesus gave himself on the cross.
May we give of ourselves to others, year after year.

#8. God gives us His gift of love.
It's there for us to receive.
God loves each and every person
Just accept it, pass it on, and believe.

Activity: Each person will write on the blank paper a gift that they will give at Christmas, or a gift of the heart, ready to be gathered with the offering in a separate basket or plate.

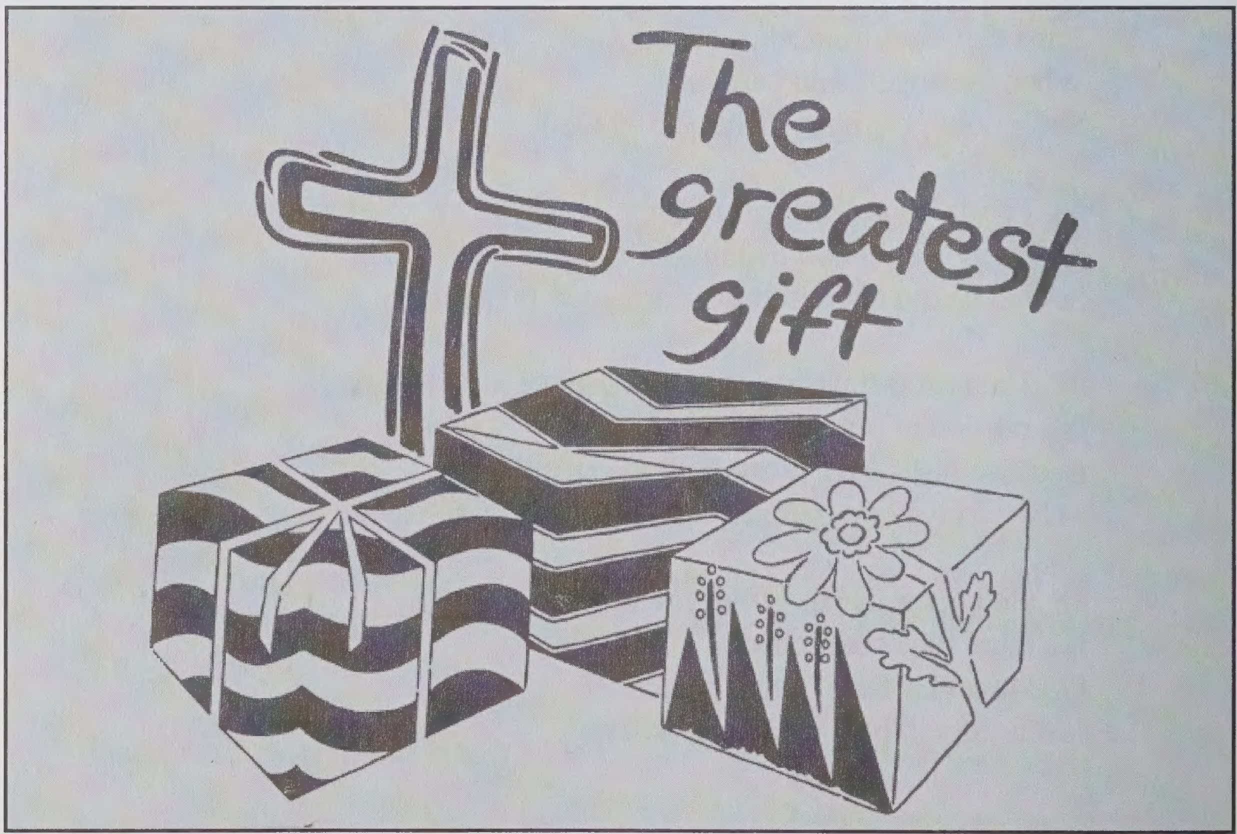
Offering: Now, as we celebrate Jesus' birth let us remember the real, wonderful story and reason for celebrating. Let us remember the real gifts of Christmas, gifts that money can't buy, that we can receive only when we accept Jesus in our hearts.

After offering is received, put the papers under the tree for dedication.

Offertory Prayer: Because you gave the gift of your Son in the spirit of love we present to you a portion of what we have in the spirit of love and thanksgiving in response to your gift.

Hymn: The wise may bring their learning, vs.1&2 #468 (1972 BOP) #344 (1997 BOP) (vs.2 'young souls' may be changed to 'our souls')

Closing Prayer: Dear Jesus, You gave us the greatest gift of all. You gave us your life on the cross as Saviour of the world. We thank you now for coming to earth to become our Saviour. In His Name. Amen



PEACE

BEGIN
WITH TODAY.
END A QUARREL.
SEEK OUT A FORGOTTEN
FRIEND. DISMISS SUSPICION
AND REPLACE IT WITH TRUST . . .
WRITE A LOVE LETTER. SHARE SOME
TREASURE. GIVE A SOFT ANSWER. ENCOURAGE
YOUTH. MANIFEST YOUR LOYALTY IN WORD AND IN DEED.
KEEP A PROMISE. FIND THE TIME. FORGO A GRUDGE.
FORGIVE AN ENEMY, LISTEN. APOLOGIZE IF YOU WERE WRONG.
TRY TO UNDERSTAND. LISTEN AGAIN. EXAMINE YOUR DEMANDS ON OTHERS.
THINK FIRST OF SOMEONE ELSE. APPRECIATE. BE KIND. BE GENTLE. LAUGH A LITTLE.
LAUGH A LITTLE MORE. DESERVE CONFIDENCE. TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST MALICE.
CHALLENGE COMPLACENCY. EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE. GO TO CHURCH. WELCOME A
STRANGER. GLADDEN THE HEART OF A CHILD. TAKE PLEASURE IN THE BEAUTY AND WONDER
OF THE EARTH.

SPEAK YOUR LOVE.
SPEAK IT AGAIN.
SPEAK IT STILL
ONCE AGAIN.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

When Giving Becomes a Dilemma

by Maria Stam

What can you do about all those "gifts" that come in the mail such as address labels, calendars and greeting cards, especially at Christmas time?

Every year with the approach of the Christmas season my mailbox fills with letters requesting donations. The economic climate of the last decade has contributed to a steady increase of petitions for support and the founding of new fundraising organizations. What once was understood as voluntary contribution, has become a necessary demand. Most organizations cannot function without the support of the community at large. However, for the average person this development has become a dilemma in choosing among the many of those to support.

My list for donations at Christmas time differs from the one I use during the year. Around this special time, I like to give to the organizations that assist people in need directly and do not spend a large percentage on administrative costs.

However, for the last couple of years another dilemma has been added in the form of "gifts." Some institutions introduced a new procedure by inserting so-called gifts with their requests. They send greeting cards, personal address labels and gift labels, hoping that people may feel obliged to give donations.

It is very tempting to use these cards and labels as they are usually of reasonable quality. Yet, I cannot use them unless I am a supporter of the particular organizations, indicated in the text on the back of the cards. Last year I had sent donations to some of these charitable fundraisers a few months before Christmas and was not able to repeat it at that time. Others had not approached me before. What could I do? Returning the cards would mean I had to pay for envelopes and postage.

I decided to keep the envelopes and put the cards into the recycling box. Knowing that it is not wise to recycle address labels with a personal name and address, I shredded them. I had no scruples using the gift labels; they did not carry the name of the sender.

When institutions and organizations send these so-called gifts, they use their charitable licence to appeal to the conscience and goodwill of people. Would it not be better if they spent the money needed for buying the cards and labels directly to the charity they are representing?

The Latin word for charity is caritas, meaning love. Christmas as the feast of love should remind us to give freely of ourselves in remembrance of Christ's birth as the greatest gift to humankind. Giving does not need to be expressed in donations, the giving of time can be a valuable, personal gift. It seems that often the lack of time forms a third dilemma in today's hectic world despite the comfort and help we receive from advanced technology.

Perhaps with some effort, we may find ways to give some of our time, e.g. by helping organizations in the preparation and serving of a Christmas meal for the poor; visiting ill and housebound people; inviting a lonely person to our home, writing that long overdue letter to relatives and friends or using our skills for the making of gifts.

Our Christian faith is based on love, and as St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:2: "...if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all" (JB).

In addition to love, Christmas also reminds us of Christ's truthfulness to the promises given to humankind by His birth. May we also deal honestly with the dilemmas forced upon us by a market oriented world. St. John so rightly assures us "...the truth will make you free." (John 8:32).

Gail Mikkelsen, Senior Manager Direct Marketing, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario says if you don't want to receive these mailings, which in the industry are referred to as "premium" mailings, contact the charity involved and ask to be removed from the list.

There are many different lists for mailing, Gail adds. "At the Heart & Stroke Foundation we make sure that we honour the requests of our donors and I'm sure this would be the case with other charities. As a matter of fact our service goes beyond our own donors. If we get a call as a result of a prospect mailing (one that goes out to non donors looking for new supporters) we will even provide a 'no mail' service to them by keeping that name and address in a special file and suppressing it from all future prospect mailings.

"It helps charities to know when a person doesn't want a mailing. It saves the cost of the mailing and it allows us to continue mailing to those who want to receive premiums.

"There's often a very high perceived value attached to the premiums we mail when in fact, due to volumes mailed the actual cost is little more than a regular non premium package in the mail. However the response doubles when there's a premium and with a premium like the greeting cards we will raise over a million dollars each year which realizes a huge profit that goes to our heart and stroke research.

"Please tell your readers to contact the charity to stop the mailings and to pass the cards on to a friend who might use them.

"For those who would like to be removed from all solicitation in the mail, there's a free service to the public offered by the Canadian Marketing Association (CMA). They collect the names and addresses of individuals wanting removal from mailings and the list of names is rented by all members of the Association when preparing mailings. The names are then suppressed from the mail preparation.

"Call the CMA at 416-391-2362 then press 2 and follow instruction for having a name removed from direct marketing lists. You can also request removal in writing to: "No Mail List", Canadian Marketing Association, Suite 607, 1 Concorde Gate, Don Mills, Ontario, M3C 3N6."

Gail reminds us that you must supply your correct name and address, and every variation of your name i.e. *L J Stevenson; L June Stevenson; Lorna Stevenson* if you happen to be receiving labels with different names. You will continue to receive mail from those charities that have you on their internal donor mail list. If you want those off as well, contact the charity and request removal.

Deanna Kennedy, Vice President, Direct Marketing, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada agrees with Gail. Deanna says, "Please be assured that the donations generated through these types of campaigns, although they seem expensive, do far exceed the cost; donations that enable us to carry out our important research for the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis."

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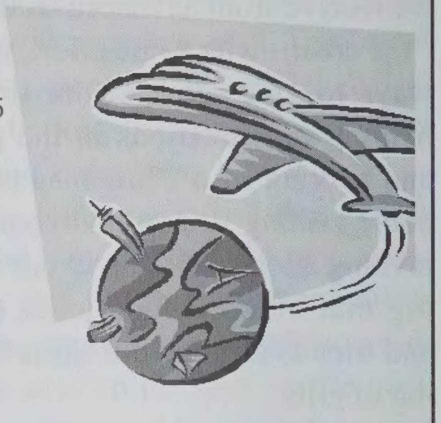

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The Light of Life

by Ed Mason

I have had a lifetime of enjoying the beauty of silverware. It gives me great pleasure to polish silver, and joy to see objects shining with a new beauty. A lighted candle in a silver holder certainly enhances its loveliness with the flame's gleaming light. The recent need for "elbow grease" cleaning of two tarnished and dull looking candleholders led to a vision of beauty which remained on my mind.

In a time of meditation, I was thinking about my Lord and Saviour as "The Light of the World." Those candleholders took on a new meaning. The stained holders reminded me of ourselves trying to lead good lives which are tarnished by human failures, always needing cleansing. I was reminded of a wonderful description of the "Christian Way" of living as given by C.S. Lewis in his book "Mere Christianity":

> "Give me all. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want you. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. I don't want to drill the tooth, or crown it, or stop it, but to have it out. Hand over the natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked—the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you myself: my own will shall become yours."[1]

You see, Christ is asking each one of us, like tarnished silver, to allow him to cleanse and make shine every aspect of our beings. He wants us to be in a new and holy state so that we will shine in life, permeated with His precious and life-giving light. He wants us to live more productive, loving, caring and creative lives. He wants us to experience a new inner joy.

Seek His cleansing and renewal. Be Christ-like and shine in His precious light!!

---

[1]C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity", Fontana Books, London, 1971 (pp. 163-4)

My Candle

I light a candle calling God's name
I hear God's voice in the steady flame.

My candle is small, but gives a pure light
It chases the demons who come by night.

I shall light my candle again and again
Until the time comes to whisper amen.

Gladys Nolan

Composed November 25, 2001 after a wonderful but hectic 93rd birthday celebration. Thanks be to God for my friends and family.

Strangers Within Our Gates

by Doris M. Johnston

The rosey-cheeked lady was always on the 8:15 bus when I took my children to the babysitter's. The children named her the wobbly cherry lady because her faded pink hat with a darker ribbon around it sported a bunch of red cherries that hung precariously over her right eyebrow and shivered and shook with every movement of the bus, or of the woman.

To myself I called her Mrs. 'Nosey.' She spoke to everyone and once started, talked incessantly, but her voice was very quiet, so I never heard what she said. I saw her "tsk, tsk" when the young couple ahead of her kissed. She "oh my-ed" when a teenager applied her makeup and she became quite upset as a couple of ten-year-olds started roughhousing as boys that age sometimes do.

Her gimlet eyes never missed a thing. The day the small boy bumped his head, she was there to comfort him and make him laugh before his mother, who was further back in the bus even noticed. Another day a young girl lost her bus ticket. Her embarrassment was evident but only Mrs. "Nosey' did something about it. She handed her a ticket and with a smile changed seats to sit beside her.

I'll never forget the day she let everyone on the bus know how she felt. She was sitting on the long front seat that faces the aisle when a portly man climbed the steps of the bus. He was followed by a tired looking woman dragging a heavy suitcase and with two small children clinging tightly to her skirt.

The man spoke rapidly to the bus driver who shook his head. "Second Street" were the only words I could understand—evidently all the driver could understand too. He waved him back in the bus.

By this time all the seats except one were occupied. The man immediately sat down, leaving his wife to sway and bounce each time the bus started or stopped.

I watched with interest as he turned to a woman sitting on his right. With a haughty look, she turned her head away. The man on his left ignored him completely; he was too engrossed in a racing form.

Suddenly Mrs. 'Nosey' reached over the sports fan and pulled a small book from the portly one's pocket. "Your dictionary." She smiled and handed it to him.

The man beamed, in his rush for the bus he evidently had forgotten he had it. He wiped his perspiring face on a large white handkerchief. His wife heaved a sigh, and the children relaxed. They had obviously seen their dad use this book before.

The sports fan mumbled something and got up. Wife and children crowded in close between the wobbly cherry lady and their father, and soon they were all carrying on an animated conversation with the help of the dictionary, many smiles and lots of gestures.

When the driver called "Second Street," the father gathered the small family together, and with loud goodbyes they left the bus.

Although Mrs. 'Nosey' received an icy glare from the haughty woman, she smiled right back and spoke loud enough for everyone to hear. "They were strangers within our gates you know."

I learned a lesson in love that day that I will always remember. She wasn't the nosy old busy body I had thought she was. She was a caring concerned woman.

How easy it is to misjudge.

IF CHURCH PEWS COULD TALK?

In this 75-page book, "Along the Timber Line," Bill Moody portrays Jack Pine, Mary Maple, Oscar Oak, Sally Spruce and others discussing pertinent church matters in the 12 chapters: Why go to church; A broken nose; Have a good day; Say it with music; Money talks; It's in the book; I love you truly; Take me to your leader; The other rib; The lambs will follow; It's the steady rain that soaks; Getting it all together.

Send $5.95, plus $1.60 for mailing to Rev. W.H. Moody, 413-3097 Palmer Drive, Burlington, ON L7M 4G8

PLEASE MENTION WHERE YOU SAW THIS AD

Destiny Unknown

I continue my journey,
always trying to look up,
to absorb the beauty around me.

I try never to look down,
risking the chance of tripping over a branch,
or stubbing my toe on a rock.
For this is to live.

To walk through life and never fall,
is to live in darkness.
To run through life,
and watch the scenery pass by without breathing it in,
is to suffocate.

Closing your eyes to escape the pain,
is to become blind.
Holding the tears in to mask the hurt,
is to drown yourself.
To cover your ears to criticism,
is to become deaf,
To ignore one's advice,
is to become brain-dead.

If one is prideful,
they will be paralyzed,
and if one is greedy,
they will become poor.
To love the world,
but reject the promise of eternity,
is to never live.

I continue my journey,
And though I know not
What path to take.
My destiny unknown,
Will lead me to gates of everlasting joy.

Rachel Virgin

Rachel Virgin is a student at the University of Western Ontario, London, taking her masters in occupational therapy.

Prayer of Simeon

Luke 2: 29-32

by Jim Phillips

D	R	O	W	G	L	O	R	Y	N
E	I	I	E	Y	E	S	F	O	O
R	M	S	G	C	E	A	I	P	I
A	A	T	M	L	A	T	R	T	T
P	S	S	P	I	A	E	N	L	A
E	T	O	O	L	S	A	P	E	V
R	E	P	E	E	V	S	D	R	L
P	R	V	N	R	C	M	I	K	A
B	E	C	E	H	N	J	Q	N	S
R	E	S	E	L	I	T	N	E	G
I	S	R	A	E	L	I	G	H	T

29 **MASTER**, now you are dismissing your **SERVANT** in **PEACE**, according to your **WORD**;

30 for my **EYES** have seen your **SALVATION**

31 which you have **PREPARED** in the presence of all **PEOPLES**,

32 A **LIGHT** for **REVELATION** to the **GENTILES** and for **GLORY** to your people **ISRAEL**.

Three Stages of Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, I go back in my dreams
The time of my childhood - how perfect it seems.
Tho' money was scarce and presents were few,
Mom and Dad did the planning, they knew what to do.
We'd wake in the morning, to the Christmas tree run
Open the presents - life was such fun.
Then off to see Grandma and Grandpa and cousins
They came to the table, I'm sure there were dozens.
There was turkey and trimmings, a meal just so great
Each one at the table would fill up his plate.

And now in my dreams I move farther ahead
Now, not a child, I'm a parent instead
It's my turn at last for planning and coping,
There are gifts I must buy, there are children all hoping.
Cookies to bake, and Church concerts too,
Where do I turn, there is so much to do.
There was no Grandma's house to visit next day
Life was unkind, she was taken away.
But the tree was still there and Santa had been.
When we woke in the morning - it was quite a scene.

The children have grown, the excitement has gone,
Will I go out for dinner, or eat all alone?
So I doze in my chair, and dream of the one
Who made it all possible, and now has gone home.
Life as a Grandma is lonely indeed
When the family is gone, and there's no one to feed.
I still have my memories, still have my dreams
Of days that have gone - O how happy it seems!

Mariann Pafford

ROOM AT THE INN:

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

by Roberta G. McClelland

What is it like to close the door on God? To say "Go away," to our compassionate Saviour? What is it like to look into the eyes of eternal love and profound mercy and to then turn your back on God saying, "I don't need you; I have all that I need."?

I often wonder how the innkeeper, who turned away Mary, Joseph, and the unborn Christ, felt when he closed the door on the exhausted young family, when he returned to his comfortable hearth and left his would-be guests to disappear into the uncertainty of the night.

Through a tragic state of unawareness he turned Christ, and the miracle of Christmas, away from himself and his home. He failed to see how important those road-weary visitors were, and he failed to find room at the Inn for them.

We all know this to be part of the Christmas story, that which leads to the prophetic birth of our Saviour in poverty. But I believe that this portion of the Christmas story also holds a further reflective meaning for all of us.

In turning away the Holy Family and the unborn Christ, the innkeeper has also assumed the role of a deliberate messenger, reminding us firstly that Christ does come to us often (and unexpectedly), and secondly that it is not at all difficult for us to deny Him entry into our lives if we are not careful.

In his book, *A Procession Of Prayers* (1998), John Carden offers a prayer from Australia which describes us as being the "privileged innkeepers of our day," and indeed that is exactly what we are. Our day begins much as an empty building, or a vacant inn, and it is our decision as to how we will fill its rooms in the hours and events that follow.

For example, we may invite a distressed friend into the shelter of our day—or we may decide that we are too busy, (the day/the inn is too full) to do so. We may take the time to speak to a panhandler on the street, and to offer him or her some assistance, or we may decide that it would be too dangerous to reach out to a derelict (the day/the inn only accepts certain patrons).

Finally, we may make a special effort to run errands for a family member, a friend, or a neighbour who is homebound, or we may decide that additional

Christ does come to us often and unexpectedly, and it is not at all difficult for us to deny Him entry into our lives if we are not careful.

tasks tacked on to an already hectic day would be too much to take on (the day/the inn does not offer specialized services to its patrons).

In the end we, like the innkeeper, are left to decide who to admit and who not to admit to our day (our inn). And, it is that same original innkeeper who continues to remind us that it is Jesus Christ who comes to us every day in the form of the distressed, the needy, the home-bound, and so many others, and who asks us if there is any room in our heart (in our inn) for Him. Is there?

The Poem of Memories

Weapons wield in fury and in hope.
Bodies fall like a storm.
Peace is only a dream to those in battle.
Strong are the soldiers who risk their lives.
'Tis no longer a dream, but reality that rests them.
Graveyards fill, mourners weep, but no one can return.
Remembrance is for the dead, the brave, and courageous.
Let no soul forget the tragedies of those days.
In memory, we shall remember the smiles,
The smiles of the once merry men, who have gone away.

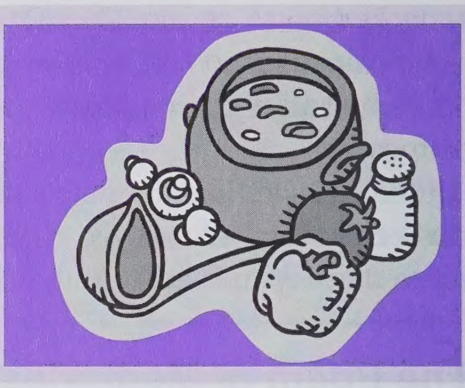
Now, on the 11th day of the 11th month, we celebrate,
Mourning here and there.
Not knowing what to say or do,
Except a sorrow-filled thank you.
Poppies scattered all around,
With pitter, patter of the rain,
Lighter than the lightest grain.
Death, hope, peace, triumph,
These are all the undefiant.
Let the dead do what they do,
And rest in peace.
What was done cannot be undone,
We have truly lost our happy loved ones.

Kelly Saunders

Kelly Saunders is in the Grade 8 Extended French program at Henry Hudson Senior Public School, Scarborough. In addition to writing poems and stories in English and French, she enjoys visual arts, cooking, swimming, and soccer. An animal lover, she likes to bicycle with her yellow Labrador Retriever, Calvin. She is an avid fiction reader and this autumn discovered the novels of Jean M. Auel. For the past seven summers, Kelly has been a camper at Ontario Pioneer Camp, Port Sydney. When she can, she attends Beaches Presbyterian Church.

Herod's Soldiers: *In the Soup!*

by Lini Richarda Grol



When Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus tried to escape Herod's-soldiers, they found shelter in a small house out in the nowhere and off the main road. Anna, the old woman living in this little house was none too rich, but she cheerfully welcomed them, and shared with them all she had.

With clasped hands she fondly watched while Mary washed baby Jesus who sweetly smiled up at her. During their meal, and encouraged by Anna's kindness, Mary told her about their fear for Herod's soldiers who were after them.

Deeply concerned Anna listened, but then she comforted Mary and Joseph, "Don't be afraid, go on your way, God will be with you all the way. And if these soldiers come here, I know what to say to them."

Rested and strengthened by her meal, and encouraged by her wise words, Mary and Joseph blessed Anna, then went once again on their way.

Not long after they had left, Anna saw a few soldiers galloping down the road to her house. Running to her door they shouted: "Open up. Open up. Where are the man, woman and the child?", they demanded harshly. "Where are they? Where?" They burst past her into her house.

Blithely Anna responded to them: "No one here, but you guys look hot and tired, you must rest. I have a big pot of soup." She smiled when she urged, "Come in and refresh yourself; you need a rest; you look exhausted."

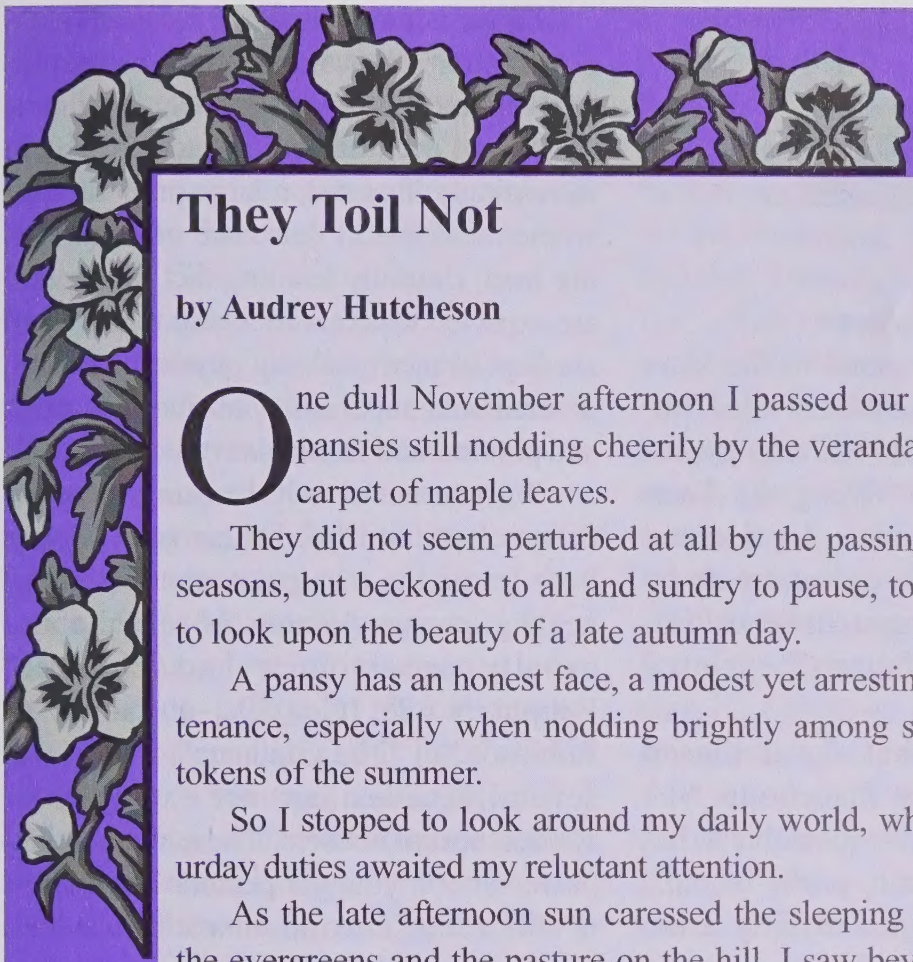
Smelling the soup, the men sat down. Anna fussed around them "Have some water to wash, and here is some wine. Do take your time, these people can't go far. I saw them toddle by. You with your horses will catch up with them in no time at all."

The tired men hungrily ate the soup and drank the wine Anna urged on them. They ate and drank while sleepily listening to her amusing tales. They had almost forgotten that they had been in a hurry to do their nasty errand.

They said to each other; "The day is long, and it is hot, and few people are ever that generous to us." Then they put down their heads on their arms and dozed off for a long time.

When finally they got up to go after their prey, they had to ask Anna for directions. She sent them on a detour which would take them back to Jerusalem. Anna chuckled when she saw them race off—they would never find Jesus!

How often are we sidetracked in our search for our most important goal in life?



They Toil Not

by Audrey Hutcheson

One dull November afternoon I passed our several pansies still nodding cheerily by the veranda amid a carpet of maple leaves.

They did not seem perturbed at all by the passing of the seasons, but beckoned to all and sundry to pause, to reflect, to look upon the beauty of a late autumn day.

A pansy has an honest face, a modest yet arresting countenance, especially when nodding brightly among so many tokens of the summer.

So I stopped to look around my daily world, while Saturday duties awaited my reluctant attention.

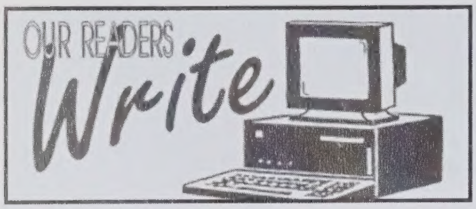
As the late afternoon sun caressed the sleeping maples, the evergreens and the pasture on the hill, I saw beyond the brown of acceptance to the gold of another year's achievement.

I saw the calm, the peace that follows great effort, whether by nature or the tillers of the soil.

Those pansies reminded me of the order of the seasons, and of the great promises for good in every human life: of rest for the soul, and assurance of a world in bloom again.

There is no need to fear the fallow time, the time to pause and look behind, for as we journey ahead we must certainly consider where we have been.

The lilies of the field could not have taught a better lesson.



Septemer 15, 2002
Dear June Stevenson, Editor:

I am constrained to respond to the letter by Rev. Keith McKee printed in Glad Tidings July/August [2002] regarding the article by Janet Wiebe "Doing the Two-Step" in the May/June issue. He does not appear to have read the earlier article by the same author "Be Prepared: Sexual Harassment in the Church," printed March/April [2002].

McKee's claim that she is biased against male clergy is inaccurate. She clearly stated "Anyone is vulnerable to harassment, male or female, young or old," and "Does the minister, usually a he, ignore your space boundaries. . ?" and "when a minister or church leader makes lewd sexual jokes in front of people. . ." I greatly admire the author for taking the risk of opening up a serious emotionally loaded topic, and for doing it in a scholarly manner. I encourage her to persist.

The author wrote: "Statistics relating to sexually abusive clergy are comparable with the rest of society. In the case of clergy, however, they violate expectations, break public trust and distort their spiritual leadership." The percentages of clergy sexual offenders and potential offenders did not originate with the author. In both articles she stated that they were the findings of G. Lloyd Rediger, a Presbyterian minister (USA). The references given can reveal more about Rediger's studies.

I hope other women and men will write out of their own experience. I mention women first because we are belittled, intimidated and even bullied by men. Although increasingly liberated, a large proportion of women still live in deference of domineering men, carefully learning tact. Many still are expected to take a back seat to men, and are kept in their place by physical strength, professional superiority, business acumen and political and manipulative skill.

Women are slowly learning to assert themselves and hold their own. Some have learned to manipulate men in an unhealthy manner. Victims of sexual abuse usually are women and children. Potiphar's wife (Gen 39:1-20) and Mrs. Robinson (in "The Graduate", a movie of several decades ago) are examples of women sexual abusers. These women had power over a younger person. However it is still a man's world, a world in which mostly men call the shots.

Rev. McKee missed the major points of these two brave articles: (1) desperate cries for help from shocked victims, (2) urgent challenge to the church to stop denying the prevalence and extreme seriousness of this problem, and (3) immediate action according to the title of the first article: "Be Prepared: Sexual Harassment in the Church."

When it is a respected man of God who makes sexual advances, the behaviors are often subtle. Innocent victims become involved without realizing what is happening. They lack knowledge of how to handle the behavior, or where to go for help. When they do report the matter they receive inappropriate advice and confidentiality is not adequate.

Meanwhile they are increasingly violated, or if they try to escape, they are cornered or tricked into compliance. Rev. McKee seems to have failed to empathize with the terror of abused women, however few or many there are. Read the two articles again. They are top notch, and we would all do well to take heed.

I particularly like the prayer for healing at the end of the March/April article.

Many women can recall examples in their own experience of inappropriate speech, hugging, etc. by a spiritual or professional leader. I do of a minister who was appointed, many years ago, by a board to counsel me. If it happened today I would know enough to tell him his behavior is unacceptable, but I still would not know to whom and how to report it. I also had a hug with sexual overtones from a psychiatrist counselling me in his office. I avoided responding and ignored it. A more naive person might have had less strength. In both instances I felt deeply hurt for a long time. If this happened today how should I handle it? We need to teach our peers and youth, but what shall we teach?

Respectfully,

Myrtle Macdonald, M.Sc Applied in Nursing (McGill U); Member of Chilliwack, Kent-Harrison Mental Health Advisory Council; Member of Cooke's Presbyterian Church, Chilliwack BC

September 2002 - Give Thanks Even in the Midst of Temptations!

A letter to the editor of the Glad Tidings [Anonymous, Sept/Oct 2002] brought forward an interesting dilemma. We are confused about temptations in our lives. It is true that at various times within one's life a person is acted upon by a manipulator and it is confusing how to respond when there is no frame of reference to draw from to assess the situation for the satisfactory response to make. In one aspect we are victimized. In every aspect we are tempted. I would like to address how we feel about temptations within our daily walk with God.

The love of God remains in the centre and depth of the heart when we feel temptation. The point which concerns us is the resolve not to sin or consent to temptation. It can take awhile for us to realize that what we are faced with is truly a temptation to be resisted. It is unreasonable to be hard on ourselves for having a "learning curve" when things come our way.

Francis de Sales from the late 16th century France stated, "If a temptation lasts the whole of a lifetime, it would not make us displeasing to God, so long as we neither took pleasure in it nor yielded our consent. In temptation we are passive; if we take no active delight we cannot be guilty." This is how Jesus could be tempted by the devil and yet remain sinless. Temptation fills us with a sadness which comes from God who resides within our soul. God has not forsaken us when we are tempted. Such sufferings are worthwhile, adding to our virtue and strength. It is God within which enables us to overcome at all!

What of the sadness and confusion engendered? Sadness itself is neither good nor bad. Its consequence is repentance and mercy as the soul is raised to the love and trust of God through the remedy of prayer which grants wisdom, judgement and courage. Anxiety is lessened when we

...continued on p 45.

Program
Proceeding in a Meeting

by Lynda Reid, Area Consultant for Toronto and Kingston

Reprinted with permission from Peterborough Presbyterial Newsletter.

Follow Lynda's suggestions below for a smooth and successful meeting:

Mary the Member: *I move that…*

Pat the President: *Is there a seconder?*

May the Member: *I second the motion.*

Pat the Prez.: *Is there discussion on the motion?*

Mary the Member: *As mover, I think it would be good because…*

Martha the Member: *I agree, because…*

Marlene the Member: *I think the motion is too rigid and would like to "amend" the motion to read…*

Pat the Prez.: *Marlene has a change of wording to the motion. Mary as mover and Pat as seconder can agree to accept the change as a "friendly amendment" or if they don't want the change, then, Marlene's amendment will need a seconder. If no one seconds the amendment, then it "falls" and we still talk about Mary's original motion.*

You will then discuss whether or not you want the change. We'll then take a vote on the change. If it passes, it will become the motion. If it fails, then again we back to Mary and May's motion.

Mary the Member: *May and I accept the change.*

Pat the Prez.: *Thanks. Now the secretary will read the motion with the change. Is there any more discussion?*

Marion the Member: *Well, I'll have to get used to the suggestion, so I don't know if I'll vote for it or not.*

May the Member: *I seconded the motion because…*

Pat the Prez.: *Any more opinions or questions? No? Okay, Mary, as mover of the motion, do you want to add anything?*

Mary the Member: *Yes…*

Pat the Prez.: *Sara the Secretary will read the motion once more.*

Sara the Sec.: *Moved and seconded that…*

Pat the Prez.: *All in favour of the motion, raise your hand. (All but 3 members raise their hand) Any against? (No one raises their hand) The motion is carried.*

Not a familiar scene in most WMS circles, or women's groups. Not a comfortable way for most women to make decisions. BUT, proper procedure means you're following *Robert's Rules of Order*. Roberts was an army officer* who devised an orderly way for men-at-arms to make decisions. With "Robert's Rule" the majority rules is its number one guide. It doesn't allow for free-flowing discussion because the speaker must stay on topic and address only the issues pertinent to the motion. Robert's Rules don't allow for a new and better way to solve the problem, except by proposing another motion and going through the procedure again.

However, often at a Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly or other official meeting, you'll hear two interesting ways to use Robert's Rules to advantage.

1. The tangle of amendments and changes is so tight that the President or Moderator strongly suggests those voting defeat the motion. Then they start again with a new motion.

2. A person changes all the word after "that". This usually causes a ripple of laughter because you know the change is going to be very different from the original thought.

I find in WMS circles particularly, that the way decisions are made is something like this:

1. Mary the Member comes up with a suggestion.
2. Several people discuss it.
3. Someone writes down the suggestion.
4. The group discusses it and changes it again.
5. Everyone agrees to the wording.
6. Mary and May agree to move and second the motion.
7. The president, who has usually been actively involved in the proceedings, calls for the vote.
8. Everyone votes in favour of the motion that they all helped to form and word.

This is a very collegial way to make decisions and for the most part, a fine way. A major decision about finances and/or group structure should use a more formal process. That being:

1. One person words the motion and moves it.
2. The motion is seconded.

3. A full discussion follows.
4. Changes to the motion are made as amendments, which are moved and seconded.
5. The amendment is discussed and then voted on.
6. The final motion is then voted on with the President or convenor asking for both those in favour and those against.
7. The president then declares the motion carried or defeated - whichever the vote indicates.

However, if you do things differently, don't get worried or bogged down in "proper procedure" unless it will help the meeting come to a decision.

***General Henry Martyn Robert was a U.S. Army engineer of Hugenot descent born May 2, 1837. After being asked to preside over a meeting, and knowing nothing of procedure, Robert determined to familiarize himself with parliamentary law before ever having to attend another meeting. The first edition of Robert's Rules of Order was published February 19, 1876. His work has been carried on by daughter-in-law Sarah Corbin Robert and grandson Henry M. Robert 111.**

A Partridge in a Pear Tree?

Many of the Christmas songs and carols we sing have been handed down over the decades, and even centuries in some cases. But while we sing them we rarely stop to think about their origins, and some of the carols have fascinating histories.

I have received a letter from a Forfar reader, who wonders if anyone can throw light on a theory she read about the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas.*

Apparently, during the 1500s, when Catholics were not allowed to practise in most areas of Britain, they taught their children the basic doctrines by making up nonsense songs so as not to arouse the suspicions of those around them. This Christmas song is one such "nonsense song."

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus and the Cross. The two turtle-doves are the Old and New Testaments. French hens were expensive in the 1500s, and so symbolised the three gifts brought by the Three Wise Men. They could also depict the three virtues - Faith, Hope and Charity.

The four calling birds are the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and the five gold rings are the first five books in the Old Testament. Six geese a-laying refers to the six days of the Creation, and seven swans a-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-8).

Eight maids a-milking are the eight blessings listed in Matthew (Blessed are the poor . . .) and nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. The 10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments, the 11 pipers piping are the 11 faithful apostles and the 12 drummers drumming represent the Apostles' Creed (I believe in God the Father, Maker of Heaven and Earth)."If this information is correct," writes the reader," does anyone know of any other nonsense songs relating to the basic doctrines?" - **From the Dundee Courier By Craigie, 20.12.00.**

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

The Middle East: Iraq

The Committee on International Affairs has called the attention of our church to the tragic situation in Iraq, first in 1993 and again in 1999. Since September 11, 2001 and the ensuing War against Terrorism, the escalation of the war of words in relation to the Iraqi regime concerns many Canadians.

Our church, as a member of KAIROS, the ecumenical justice coalition, and of Project Ploughshares, the peace coalition, has addressed the Canadian government regarding our concerns that Canada, as an ally of the United States in the war against terrorism, might be drawn into an attack on Iraq. The Hon. Bill Graham, Minister of Foreign Affairs has stated that "Canadian support for any military action will be decided on a case by case basis, and will reflect our own assessment of Canadian interests and the implications for the international community". The minister added "Canada's policy toward Iraq centres on addressing, with equal priority, humanitarian and security/disarmament issues".

Ecumenical visitor, Dr. Riad Jarjour, spoke movingly to the 128th General Assembly about the suffering of the people of Iraq and the fear of conflict. In response the Assembly recommended that:

The Presbyterian Church in Canada call on the Government of Canada, to i) speak against sanctions, ii) seek political approaches towards the current Iraqi regime and iii) voice its opposition to a strategy of offensive military action against Iraq.

Since there are many indications that the issue of Iraq will assume ever greater importance as the war in Afghanistan winds down, let us remember this country and its people during our daily prayers for peace.

Time for Justice! is based on the report of the International Affairs Committee to the 128th General Assembly, June 2002. The full report is found in Acts & Proceedings 2002.

Time for Justice! may be read as a Minute for Mission, or printed as a bulletin insert or newsletter article to inform members of the international concerns of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and ask for their prayerful consideration of these

TEXT: Dineke Kraay EDITING & DESIGN: Gail Turner

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Personal Pilgrimage at Midlife: One Day Soul Journeys for a Time of Transition by Viki Hurst. Northstone Publishing, 2002, 224 pages, $24.95

This book guides the reader on a walk of personal reflection encouraging one to examine the various aspects of our spiritual and physical well being. She begins by acknowledging that career is often of prime importance in our life, taking up a majority of our waking hours, yet at roughly the half-way point in life women and men tend to begin reflecting on what is truly important in terms of personal "values, priorities and desires."

It is a time when one might consider a major life change relating to career, relationships with others including forgiveness issues, connection with nature and environmental issues, or personal health issues such as nutrition and exercise. She stresses that "mid-life" does not refer to a specific age, but rather can occur anywhere from age 35 years and older.

Author Viki Hurst. Photo: Ellen Long Studios

We tend to become more thoughtful about our individual role in society; accepting the notion that we are responsible for the society that future generations will inherit in terms of our local community, our country, and mother earth. Perhaps our original choice of career was based on securing a high income, yet later in life this may not be what we value most.

Examining the rest of our life also causes us to consider issues such as our own mortality and the mortality of those close to us. Our sexual identity tends to mature and alter as time goes on yet is rooted in issues of ethnicity, gender, religion, and family teachings.

Midlife is a time of personal evaluation and planning for living out the rest of your life. Ms. Hurst lays out some suggested phases of this pilgrimage: heeding the call, the night before (preparation), the journey, and the homecoming. This theme forms the workbook section of this resource. As a useful addition she includes 52 pages of reflections by significant personalities in our society such as Abraham Lincoln, Billie Holiday, Cesar Chavez, Emily Dickinson, Chief Sitting Bull, and Eleanor Roosevelt. A comprehensive and thoughtful resource for anyone entering a time of life when they seek assistance in self examination.

Kim Arnold

The Green Earth: Poems of Creation by Luci Shaw. Eerdmans Publishing $27.50 Summer 2002 is filled with hardship, and as I write this book review, Saskatchewan farmers are experiencing a drought that some say is worse than the 1930s. Parched prairie land is in stark contrast to the lush green-ness of Luci Shaw's poetry in *The Green Earth*: *Poems of Creation*. In this collection, we read of God's bounty, God's blessing, the "Breath which . . . mists the world with green"; some topics covered are rain, the woods, the garden, berries, the summer cottage, house building.

In the Introduction, Shaw indicates the need for attentiveness which yields "exhilaration in small things." The role of the poet is to offer her eyes to the reader, so that the reader "will be captivated by things . . . never noticed before" (page 4). When an image, idea or phrase develops and becomes a polished poem (after many rewrites), Shaw quotes Dorothy Sayers "I feel like God on the Seventh Day. Amen!"

In rhyming couplets, *Highway Song for Valentine's Day* speaks of roadside graffito: "Kim, I love you - Danny" which in turn speaks of "a longer Lover whose declaration lasts forever." This is art in life: an earthly statement of love becomes a sign of Christ's eternal fealty.

Although some landscapers may disagree with Shaw's line, "All dandelions give glory", the poem *Spring song, very early morning* states weeds, grasses, mosses, flowers pour forth a hymn of praise. Yes, green growing things are a testament to God's glory.

Nature/Creation is the main focus in this book; however, Luci Shaw does include some people poems. In the very first poem *How to paint a promise in January,* a granddaughter's watercolour painting stimulates both persona (the grandmother) and reader to visualize bright spring colours in the midst of a grey winter day. The child paints an orange sun and a rainbow "arc-ing wet over strokes of grass green enough to be true."

Folio is a layered piece: a woman is compared to a blank page, a cocoon and a coin, as she examines the underside of leaves. Rather than becoming a flattened coin on train tracks, she is waiting to be transformed like a "bud busting pink." She hopes to emerge from her cocoon of writer's block, to "bloom first" before mortality claims her; a complex, enriching poem.

Showers in the Foothills strikes the metaphor of rain on leaves as being percussion: "The clear rain pebbles touch each coin of my leafy greenness like a piano key." *The Meaning of White Oaks* tells the story of tree growth: the acorn that is pulled downward grows, rising and spreading "to interrupt horizontal space."

Shaw lists light, rain, time and wind as factors necessary to produce a tree, which then can be fashioned into a crib, floor, table, "a door to open welcoming daylight." Each of us needs a life list of basic ingredients in order to become a productive human being, who can bless others, as trees richly bless us.

Not surprisingly, each of the three section titles in this volume of 48 poems contain the word green. In her poem *Benedictus*, Shaw relates that a tree is cut to make way for power lines, and the gap is "inhabited by a green throb of leaves." Likewise, she bears witness to the throb of God in Creation, and undoubtedly, in her poetry.

In noticing the beauty of living things in nature, Luci Shaw points us to the fingerprints of the Creator; thereby, we the readers are given fresh insights, as well as deeply devotional poetry. Luci Shaw states in her final selection that she desires to "bear a fruit sweet"; indeed, she has. Read these poems; chew up their delicious images and enjoy.

Joan Bond

Children's Christmas Books: a great way to keep the true focus of Christmas and become holiday traditions.

Until the Christ Child Came by Dandi Daley Mackall. Illustrated by Sally Wern Comport. Concordia Publishing House $25.00 Hardback with jacket.
Flowing rhyme captures Mary's thoughts and emotions in this Christmas story written from the heart, with wonder, warmth and peace. Ages 4 and up.

The Very First Christmas by Paul L. Maier. Illustrated by Francisco Ordaz. Concordia Publishing House. $24.95 Hardback with jacket.
Because Christopher only wants to hear real stories about real people, his mother goes right to the source to get the facts and they read the nativity story together from the Bible. Christopher's many bright questions and his mother's thoughtful answers keep the wonder of the very first Christmas. Ages 5 and up.

Follow the Star. Told and illustrated by Julie Park. CPH Publishing, $12.25
A box of five diamond-shaped board books forms a star and tells the Christmas story from the point of view of the donkey; the wise men; the shepherds; the innkeeper; and Mary and Joseph. With a ribbon to hang from the tree, these could easily become a favourite family tradition to be brought out every Christmas. Ages 2-5.

Angels & All Children, a Nativity Story in Words, Music and Art with CD by Walter Wangerin, Jr. Illustrated by Tim Ladwig and music by Randy Courts. Augsburg Fortress Books. $20.95
A great bargain, this lovely book told by a renowned storyteller, may be shared in many ways - read aloud, enjoying the dramatic pictures, or following the story and songs on the CD. The book is also written somewhat like a play to be used by all ages in the family. A web site is provided for Sunday schools, congregations or drama and music programs for scripts and music scores. Ages 5 and up.

Waiting for Noel, An Advent Story by Ann Dixon, illustrated by Mark Graham. Eerdmans Books, $14.25
A father tell his young daughter the story of waiting and preparing for her birth on Christmas day, paralleling it to Advent and preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth. One candle is lit each Sunday for four weeks and the fifth on Christmas representing hope, peace, joy, faith and love. Ages 4 and up.

MISSION IN ACTION

Lessard-Clouston
Japan

August, 2002 **-** Greetings from Nishinomiya! After a late rainy season through much of July, we are now experiencing the full heat and humidity of Japanese summer. It's time to update you and ask for your ongoing prayers, and in doing so we'll answer questions people sometimes ask.

1) What are some ministry highlights you've experienced since you wrote last?

Michael: I'm grateful for good attendance and positive 'comment card' feedback from students on the weekly English chapel service I lead in the School of Economics. During "Christian Week" on campus this spring I spoke to hundreds of students on "Recognizing and Turning From Sin to God" in a combined chapel, and although preparing such messages is a lot of work it's a privilege to do so for people who choose to come each week. I'm also pleased that our English Bible study has experienced some renewal this spring, with several new members joining since we started studying Colossians in May.

Wendy: One highlight of the spring for me was having a Christian magic and puppet show in our backyard for families from my women's Bible study. The wife of the pastor at our international church has been involved in a puppet ministry for many years, in the US and now in Japan, and has a very creative and evangelistic show. We were blessed to have an excellent interpreter from the church and the children were therefore able to hear the Christian message in Japanese, specifically focussing on the meaning of Easter.

2) What was the most frustrating or stressful thing for you this spring?

Michael: I found juggling work responsibilities very stressful this past term. I now teach seven very different courses (four undergraduate English plus three graduate language education), and still lecture occasionally in a Canadian Studies class. While there are many positives (a variety of lessons and students, for example), I nonetheless wish I could focus on slightly fewer things! Kwansei Gakuin's new Master's program is particularly short-staffed in the language education field, so I am sometimes inundated with various requests from graduate students and faculty. Also, helping graduate students with their research seems to leave me less time to work on my own Ph.D. dissertation. Although it's slow-going, it is coming along. Yet it requires quality time to do my own research and writing.

Wendy: I was asked to do a presentation on Canada for an international lecture series offered by a city organization. I agreed, but then found out that it was to be in Japanese. My language skills are completely inadequate for this sort of thing, but with a tremendous amount of help I did the presentation in June—and then repeated it later for the new young families' group at our Japanese church!

A second very stressful event was trying to do a handicraft at Caleb's kindergarten where mothers are required to work together on crafts for the annual bazaar. My group had to sew bows for barrettes with a quota of 4 pairs per person. I am definitely "handicraft-challenged", so I was still working on my first one while the others were on their third or fourth. Just when I thought I was nearing the end, I jabbed my finger and got blood on the ribbon. Most people were shaking their heads in disbelief at my clumsiness, but one person asked if I was going to bleed on the next one as well in order to have a matched set!

3) What's the latest with Joel and Caleb these days?

As we wrote last time, Joel (8) started at St. Michael's International School in Kobe at the end of February, and both he and we are very happy with this change. While Joel still has reservations about school overall, he has adjusted well, has begun to make some new friends, and has made progress in his studies. It's a long commute, but so far it's worked out okay, and we are all getting to know a truly international group of people. Joel will start grade 3 in September with a new teacher, and although we're no longer focussing on Japanese literacy for him, he still has opportunities to keep up his oral Japanese. Caleb (4) started at the kindergarten run by our local Japanese church in April. He has a good teacher and enjoys many of the activities, particularly being class helper. Experiencing real 'immersion' at school, Caleb's Japanese is coming along very nicely. Both boys take weekly swimming lessons, and have their own interests and activities. Joel is a Lego specialist, and Caleb loves baseball, while both boys follow the latest Star Wars phenomena.

The Lessard-Clouston family.

4) What's God been teaching you lately?

Michael: Paul writes that when we are weak, in and through Christ we are strong (2 Cor. 12:10). I have been particularly aware of my shortcomings lately, yet God has also shown me that His mercy and grace are much greater than my inadequacies and sins. I am grateful, and 1 John 1:8-9 and Colossians 1:21-23 have been very encouraging in this.

Wendy: I think God has been teaching me about humility. Over the past few

Overseas Staff Birthdays

DECEMBER
15 - Rick Allen, Kenya
31 - Sheila McKelvie, Pakistan

JANUARY
10 - David Pandy-Szekeres, Hungary

FEBRUARY
21- Bill McKelvie, Pakistan

months, I have been humbled repeatedly by my failures and weaknesses. Especially in areas where I had felt confident, it has been hard to meet with disappointment. It has made me think about how often I am motivated, at least in part, by pride and a desire to have my contributions recognized. I have not been quick to learn these lessons, and ask you to continue to pray for me as I learn and struggle with humility.

5) What else is coming up that we can pray about?

In September, Wendy will begin teaching Religious Education classes for grades 1 to 3 at Joel's school on Thursday mornings. It will be a challenge to sensitively introduce various world religions to a very international group of students. Please pray that I will have wisdom and patience in this work.

After summer break the fall also sees a return to all the regular activities we've written about on previous occasions. Please pray for us to have wisdom, guidance, and strength in all of them. December is an especially busy time with Christmas activities and many opportunities for us to talk about Jesus and His first coming. In all things, may we do so clearly and boldly, so that God will receive the honour and glory.

Thank you for praying for us. We often feel lonely and alone here, so we are grateful you are standing with us in this way. Please also continue to pray for Japan. [See excerpt below from Operation World, so that you can learn and pray about the country, its peoples, etc.] Please let us know how we might also pray for you.

Sincerely,

Michael & Wendy

RELIGION

Freedom of religion is guaranteed to all by the constitution, but the rising power of nationalistic Shintoism partly associated with the new emperor is tarnishing that freedom. Over 80% of Japanese claim no personal religion, but most follow the demands of idolatrous and ancestor-venerating Buddhism, and rituals of polytheistic Shintoism. Many also follow some of the hundreds of newer religious movements that are offshoots of these. The main ones: Soka Gakkai 17m, Risshokosekai 5.5m, Seicho no Ie 3.7m. So figures cannot adequately show the multiple religious loyalties of the Japanese, which could be Buddhist 85%, Shinto 90%!

Patterson
El Salvador

August 29, 2002- People often ask us, "What do you do?" That's a very complicated question. It sort of depends on what our mission partners are up to at any given moment, and what is happening in Canada and what is happening in El Salvador (any of which can be unpredictable!).

April was busy. An enthusiastic group of volunteers came from Knox, Dunnville ON to help build three houses in El

Staff Retreat participants in Antigua.

Refugio, and to learn about the Salvadoran context with a view to mission solidarity.

All the Central American Mission staff met together with Dr. Marjorie Ross, International Ministries, Karen Plater of PWSD, and Barbara Nawratil of Education for Mission.

PCC organized a theological conference for several regional seminaries and our three Canadian seminaries. The event held in beautiful Antigua, Guatemala, was very stimulating, and created a number of bonds between north/south and south/south.

May: Presbyterian College student Todd Statham spent a week with us learning about the practice of ministry from a contextual theological base.

As soon as Todd left, Brenda and I started a three-month run at a somewhat normal schedule. Number one priority for Jim was training leaders in Compassionate God, Ahuachapán and with the Prisoners′ Committee in Metapán. Along with this, Jim put together a working constitution for Compassionate God. With these same groups Brenda offered English courses.

Number two on the list was the group of women in El Refugio who had been harmed by local mismanagement of the basic education project. Brenda began accompanying that group, and offered as well a cooking-nutrition course with the women and an embroidery course with some of their daughters. Because of the sensitivity of the situation, Jim was not able to be present in the community, but continued to struggle with the Federation in order to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion (not yet achieved).

Third, but not of least importance, for Brenda was a neighbourhood on the outskirts of El Refugio in which the people were in danger of losing their houses due to some rather shady contracts they had unwittingly signed with a Salvadoran foundation. Brenda and a very kind and generous lawyer named Angel Trigueros set about to help the people get a better deal (which was finally reached in July).

For Jim, priority number three was working with Pastor Felix of Ahuachapán and Pastor Rigoberto of Sonsonate in establishing a new Mission in Barra Ciega, a rural community on the sea shore south of Sonsonate (famous for its spiders and scorpions.

June: More of the same. The highlight of June was an amazing Father's Day Dinner and party at the Metapán prison. Brenda and Luisa Colocho from El Refugio somehow managed to stretch a dinner planned for 110 to 180 prisoners, guards, and a few family. Also in the month of June, IMU (Salvadoran Institution of Women's development and education) became increasingly involved in the women's group in El Refugio and with a community socialized clinic project in one of Compassionate God's missions, Chancuyo.

July: Barra Ciega mission began to catch hold. The people are dreadfully poor. The local Baptist church (not with the Federation) is more Pentecostal than anything. The local Baptist pastor visits the members who have a bit of money. The widows and the sick he does not visit. The people we have attracted are people who are fed up with church. Some have been kicked out for drinking. Others left in disgust. By the end of July about 18 or so were gathering for study and reflection.

Toward the end of July, Brenda went over to Guatemala with a delegation from the Santa Ana Lions Club to see an eyeglass project from the north. In 2003 the Lions and Lenscrafters are mounting an impressive eye clinic in Santa Ana for one week to benefit 10,000 low to no income persons and providing eyeglasses where necessary. Brenda and the Lions have been working on this for almost two years. Looks like it will be a go!

The last week in July, thanks to a generous couple in Vancouver, Pastor Ramón Ramírez was able to deliver $1000 CDN worth of school supplies to two schools in Metapán. Both principals were effusive in their gratitude. Parents must provide notebooks, pens, pencils, and erasers, as well as knapsacks for their children. Many families do not have the money to do this. A big thank you from all of them.

August: St. Andrew's, Sarnia had sent us a special gift. Brenda took about half of it and went with Pastor Felix Lino and Deacon Tránsito Galán (both builders by trade) of Ahuachapán and together they helped finish constructing the new community clinic being set up by the new "Baptist Christian Community Jesus is Lord". Brenda is very impressive with a pickaxe.

In El Refugio, the women with whom Brenda has been working decided to invite Pastor Felix of Ahuachapán to help them organize a new mission.

We were pleased to host a delegation from St. Andrew's, Thunder Bay who came to learn more about contextual theological reflection and to help build housing for four families in Ahuachapán. As part of their work, they also spent a day painting a new municipal daycare centre in Nuevo Cuscatlán funded by PWSD through IMU, our main Salvadoran partner.

Above: Students for English and/or leadership at Metapan Prison. Below: Evening devotions - Jim with Thunder Bay group at hospital.

Special mention to David Vancook for his artwork on the mural which is the front wall of the daycare. It was a fun group, mostly young people. They ate lots! They worked hard. And they saw and heard so many new things.The daycare has been named to be a memorial to two girls from the community who died, one a victim of family violence, the other a victim of violence in the community. Katia Miranda Jiménez (7) was murdered in 1999, and Lupita Ortíz, a mentally challenged woman (21), in 1996.

IMU´s work in the community has been remarkable. They have organized and trained a women's committee through whom 24 houses and the daycare have been built. The Mayor of the community, Vidal García, has been of great assistance. Brenda and I were pleased to attend the official opening on August 31st representing PWSD.

In the midst of all this: Marta needed exploratory surgery. If she had money, it would have been a relatively simply procedure. They would insert a small fiber optic probe in her navel. After a couple of days rest, she would have been as good as new. But Marta does not have much money. So they cut open her abdomen to see what they could see. She will be recovering for months. They found nothing. I suppose that's good news.

José finally got a set of teeth, thanks to a Canadian friend. He lost his teeth about eight years ago, about the same time as he was suddenly laid off from his job. But now he has teeth. Now he can eat properly.

A spider bit Jim while he was in Barra Ciega. Two days later he was admitted to a private hospital where, thanks to health insurance, he was well looked after for 10 days, enjoyed a TV, air conditioning and a private room. And Marta´s sister and José were among his many kind visitors. Sunday morning, Pastor Felix and several women from Compassionate God Church arrived at 7:30 a.m. to celebrate worship in the sick room. They must have left Ahuachapán at 6. As worship was ending, we all sang together:

Where there is love, God is there. Just after the Thunder Bay group departed, Brenda was on her way to Metapán with a delivery of materials for a prisoner who feeds his family by doing tailoring. As she was leaving Santa Ana, she braked hard to avoid a bus (that was cutting her off), and ended up in a concrete canal. The bus did not stop, but about 40 other people gathered around to get her out of the car and make sure she was more or less OK. Doctor Milagro from Shekina Church, who also arranged for Jim's care, checked her out. Shoulder badly banged. Other than that, OK.

El Refugio Women in small group activity at IMU workshop.

And that is, more or less, what we have been doing.

Love to all,
Brenda and Jim

From July 28 - August 11, 2001 Yvonne Brooks of Wallacetown, Ontario joined the Pattersons on a Study Exposure Tour in El Salvador. Her experience has increased her desire to promote mission awareness in others, and to encourage people to share the bounty we have in Canada. "We are so fortunate to live in Canada, a land of opportunity", Yvonne says. Her report follows:

The diversity in the group of six churches where we worshiped and worked was startling. From the friendly yet reserved middle class congregation at Shekins to the genuine warmth of the peasants I felt at the Compassionate God Church in Ahuachapan.

At Ahuachapan we had the joy of being present to witness one of James' literacy classes. A woman in her 60s read her first word, finally able to read the language in which she had taught life's lessons to her children and grandchildren.

When leaving Ahuachapan after our last scheduled visit (an evening communion service) everyone was giving us hugs goodbye. One little old lady embraced me with a tear in her eye, and spoke to me in Spanish. James interpreted her plea, "Do not forget us", I could never forget these people. In spite of their long history of oppression, poverty and adverse living conditions, they have hope and faith that the future will be brighter for the beautiful children of El Salvador. PWS&D, along with their partners FEBES are making this dream live by building homes, developing programs and soon a medical clinic in this area.

We were in El Refugio to see the efforts of PWS&D and FEBES in action in the Nazarea Church and El Refugio School: educating the children and giving them a nutritious breakfast; working with the mothers to improve their self esteem, and to help them develop micro-businesses and a closer sense of community. Working with the teachers to improve their teachings, Brenda is teaching the women machine sewing and crochet. The entire community is benefiting in many ways.

We were honoured to visit Las Collinas with Joe Reed and Mary Kalil. Las Collinas is a community where over 1,000 perished in a landslide caused by the first earthquake on January 13, 2001. Joe and Mary gave us a closer connection and insight into the devastation and how their government is not helping. Government to government aid does not seem to filter down to the people in need.

The reality is that there are many thousands of families living in tin and black plastic shacks. Even though they have dirt floors they are clean, neat and tidy. Out in the camps things are quite unlike the inner city slums in Central or North America. These are hard working proud people in very humble surroundings.

Another reality is the stench of diesel buses and trucks with their black clouds of soot that clog the air of this beautiful country. These vehicles transport thousands of people (hours each way) into the city in an effort to make a few meagre colones, enough to buy a little rice or cornmeal to feed their children and aging mothers. It is never enough to afford the products they themselves produce or manufacture.

I cannot write this report without paying tribute to Brenda and Jim Patterson; their warm hospitality, their insight into the needs of the Salvadorean people and their house guests. They worked to create a complex agenda, carefully interspersing learning experiences with Salvadoran reality and then helping us make sense of the highs and lows. During the late evening devotionals they included a time for our delegation to reflect on the day and clarify any questions.

The visions experienced on this exposure tour will affect the balance of my life. I only hope that my presentations and communications will enlighten others to the plight of the peasants in El Salvador and the ways PWS&D is working to improve their quality of life.

NEWS

Ratify the Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol must be ratified immediately. Very strong linkages exist between the issues of climate change, poverty and sustainable development. Scientists predict that climate change will result in more severe weather events, such as intense rainfall, flooding and drought.

These events will lead to a series of short-term and long-term problems—ranging from increased environmental refugees, hunger and malnutrition to more outbreaks of tropical diseases. Within Canada severe impacts are predicted, particularly for the Inuit of Northern Canada, whose hunting and fishing patterns are now being disrupted by warmer temperatures.

Industrialized economies, which emit the most greenhouse gases, are in the best position to both prevent global warming and reduce its impact. The developing world, which is expected to bear the brunt of climate change has the least resources and capacity to adapt.

The Canadian government has signed both the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) that emerged from the Rio 'Earth Summit' and the Kyoto Protocol, which was established pursuant to the FCCC. It has yet, however, to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, which establishes concrete, international targets to reduce green house gas emissions and continues to delay taking a decision as to whether it will do so.

The above was part of a statement to the Government of Canada by the Commission on Justice and Peace, the Canadian Council of Churches. Stephen Allen, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, is the chair of the commission.

Canadian churches cry NO to Iraq war

(TORONTO) Fifteen prominent church leaders representing a broad spectrum of Canadian church denominations, as well as the ecumenical peace organization Project Ploughshares and the inter church justice coalition KAIROS joined together to send an urgent message to Jean Chrétien today, imploring the Prime Minister to resist growing "pressure" in favour of "a new invasion of Iraq."

"This is a time for intense diplomacy and face to face negotiations, not for missiles and high altitude bombing. This is especially a time for multilateralism," states a joint letter church leaders and two church coalitions.

The churches warn against supporting any United Nations resolution that makes it virtually impossible for Iraq to comply with demands. Such a UN resolution "would be a mere cover for an invasion that might be multinational but would still be unjust", states the letter.

The Canadian church leaders explain that their decision to send a joint letter to the Prime Minister was prompted by pleas from colleagues in the Middle East to "speak and act against the threat of another war."

Canadian churches have a long and close relationship with the Middle East Council of Churches, which includes churches in Iraq. Together they have been vocal in denouncing the devastating impact of eleven years of international sanctions against Iraq, sanctions they say have not weakened the oppressive grip of the Saddam Hussein regime but instead hurt ordinary and innocent Iraqi civilians. Canadian church personnel are also engaged in humanitarian relief efforts in Iraq.

Acknowledging that many in Iraq "long and pray for a regime change", the church leaders emphasize it is "all the more striking" that "voices from that country and region urge us not to bring about a new regime by means of a violent invasion from outside."

Instead the church leaders call on Prime Minister Chrétien to ensure the Canadian government supports a negotiated, peace building approach "consistent with international law and taking the common good of Iraq's people as its starting point".

"We do not understand how a cataclysm can be averted without genuine negotiation," continue the church leaders. "Furthermore, negotiations cannot open minds and possibilities if the universe is divided beforehand into two camps, the good and the evil, with 'our' side being only good. Such an approach, besides running counter to a Christian sense of sin and grace, reveals an arrogance which can only deepen anger and hostility."

The church leaders conclude by urging the Prime Minister to press all countries to comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions since "Iraq is not the only country that stands in violation of them" and to reconsider onerous compensation obligations imposed on Iraq after the Gulf War.

Among other leaders the churches' letter to the Prime Minister is signed by Rev. J. Mark Lewis, Moderator, 128th General Assembly, Presbyterian Church in Canada. For more information, to obtain full text of letter, or to arrange interviews, contact: Dale Hildebrand, Middle East Coordinator, KA

Women Commissioned in Tamil Church

The Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church made history by commissioning five women for the first time. In the Commissioning Service held in the New Jerusalem Church, Tranquebar, on July 9, 2002, five women were commissioned to full time ministry. The Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church also celebrates July 9 as Mission Thanksgiving Day and therefore it was the most appropriate expression to thank God for the historic event. According to Bishop Aruldoss, the five women were already in full time church ministries, and would be given pastorates in the near future. The ordained women will continue to fight against gender stereotyping and discrimination which has kept them from participating in fuller ministry for this long.

Gujarat, Pakistan Atrocities

On Wednesday, 25th September two gunmen charged into the Office of Idare e Amin o Insaf, an organization for peace and justice (a Christian NGO), in Gujurat, Pakistan, roped seven people inside the room, taped their mouths and shot them straight at their heads. The dead bodies were found lying on the chairs. Two other people were severely wounded. This act of terror has shocked the Christian communities in South Asia. This is another blood stained event in the continuing atrocities against minorities in South Asia.

On behalf of the South Asian Council of Churches, that is the National Councils of Churches in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, we stand in solidarity with the Christians in Pakistan and also with the National Council of Churches in Pakistan in this hour of crisis. We share the pain and sorrow of our brothers and sisters who lost their dear ones in this brutal attack.

This again brings to our urgent attention the need of a pro-active approach towards overcoming violence. We need to take all possible steps to bring about harmony and peace in South Asia. Majorities and minorities need to work together to overcome violence of all forms. The churches and NCCs are called upon to take the initiative in this matter. The struggle will be hard and long, but the survival of the world community will depend mainly on such initiatives.

- The South Asian Council of Churches, News letter: N C C India

Taiwanese Women Celebrate 80 years of Women's Ministries.

August 25, 2002—Under the general theme of "Your Kingdom Come" the women of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan celebrated 80 years of focused ministry with a convention from August 13 to 15 in Kaohsiung City. Seven hundred women from Taiwan and overseas gathered for the meeting.

The specially composed theme song began with the words, "Women's Mission, Eighty years, For the Lord sweat, blood and tears." Overseas representatives from Europe, Asia and the Americas joined as testimony to the international and ecumenical flavor of the PCT's women's work these eight decades.

Rev. Lin Niling, the PCT General Assembly's Secretary for Women's Ministries, said, "Women must stand up straight, and bravely step forth." She added that individual women all are precious in the eyes of God, so all should recognize their value. "Jesus brought the good news of liberation and freedom in the Kingdom of God, sisters should speak words of blessing as we follow in the footsteps of the Lord in service to the Kingdom of God. In this manner," she said, "all voices will be heard, and equality of men and women will surely come about."

At the PCT's 48th General Assembly last April a motion passed to reserve one fifth of the places in all voting assemblies to women. This is the first step of the church towards true gender equality. Rev. Lin said that women are capable of making all manner of decisions, and because sisterhood is powerful the church can be reformed.

Rev. William J. K. Lo, though male, was invited to address the assembly. His topic echoed the main theme, "May Your Kingdom Come." He called for respect and true mutuality between women and men. "When we work together with one heart, the coming of the Kingdom of God is hastened. Women also must bravely express themselves in the Kingdom of God."

One ritual was the celebration of the Lord's Supper, at which old fashioned Taiwan rice cake was substituted for the bread.

- Reported by Li Shin ren. Translated and rewritten by David Alexander

In the Society

Synodical

An excellent morning worship conducted by West Toronto Presbyterial was the opening for the 2002 Annual Meeting of **Toronto-Kingston** Synodical, held in Richmond Hill Church. One hundred and twenty-three delegates and visitors, plus 11 invited guests were warmly welcomed by President June Campbell, Mary Foster of Oak Ridges and Rev. George Beals, minister of Richmond Hill.

The theme, *Light Shines in the Darkness*, was illustrated in our Bible Study, even to turning off the lights so everyone could experience how important light is in our lives; just as it is important to have the light of God in our personal lives.

Reports were given by the three area secretaries, Jean Abrams, Madge Cooper and Jill Pardy. The three area staff, Lynda Reid, Keith Boyer and Colleen Smith, gave an interesting presentation. The message: IYAD-WYAD-YAG-WYAG - *If you always do, What you always did, You always get, What you alway got!*, showed how afraid we are of change.

The moneys collected were given to Algoma Presbyterial to send two children to camp.

An interesting talk was given by Council Executive President Joanne Instance on her recent trip to Taiwan.

After dinner and wonderful Celtic entertainment, Dr. Clarence McMullin spoke.

Sunday, after attending Church and enjoying another delicious lunch, the meeting closed with unfinished business and the installation of the new officers by Joanne Instance.

The **Saskatchewan Core Committee** held a Women's Gathering on May 25th at the John Paul 11 Centre in Regina. Forty-five women attended, coming from Saskatoon, Val Marie, Swift Current, Moosomin, Qu'Appelle, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Briercrest and Regina.

Worship services were led by Rev. Catherine Dorcas from Moosomin/Whitewood, assisted by Devon Pattemore, a student working with congregations in the east part of Saskatchewan. Sing-alongs were led by Beverley Shepansky from Val Marie with Mae Morris, Regina, at the piano.

Guest speaker was Jill Cavanagh from Swift Current. Jill has worked as a Christian Counselor doing family and marriage counseling and has also worked in the separate school system, counseling in both elementary and senior high schools. She gave a very moving account of her life story and how, through God's guidance and love, she has become what she is today.

The theme was *Body, Mind and Soul.* Workshops to do with Body were Crafts, conducted by Dorothy Lowenberg, Regina and Senior Exercises led by Donna Wilkinson, Regina. The workshop to do with the Mind was Bible Study led by Rev. Shirley Barker Kirby, Norman Kennedy Church, Regina.

The workshop on the Soul was conducted by Judy Oldridge from Briercrest, using the theme Prayer. A fourth workshop was a report on the 2002 WMS

Annual Council meeting held at Crieff Hills, given by Mary Findlay who was the delegate from the South Saskatchewan Presbyterial. All workshops were well received and enjoyed.

Lunches and coffee breaks were supplied by the staff of the John Paul 11 Centre. This beautiful facility is well equipped to provide space for meetings such as ours.

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Synodical of **Southwestern Ontario** met in Knox, St. Thomas, ON. Rev. Dr. Andrew Human welcomed everyone and President Carol Mackowski chaired the meeting.

Opening worship, taken from Isaiah 35:1-10, set the tone of the meeting, "Touch the World." Niagara Ladies were spellbinding with their question, "What Does the Lord Require of You?"

Guest speaker Rev. Karen Horst gave a fascinating presentation of mission sites she has visited.

Joanne Instance, President of Council Executive was in attendance. Joanne spoke about the Society, her part in it, and encouraged us to further our involvement in mission with new ideas and enthusiasm for the coming year.

Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs presented "Educating for Mission." Rev. Gwen Brown and Spencer Edwards gave glowing reports of a fully registered Camp Kintail and of youth conferences, with updates of plans for growth.

Susan Clarke of The Book Room reviewed new books, and business included the installation of officers conducted by Joanne Instance and Rev. Sarah Kim.

After Tuesday dinner, we were treated to a musical concert. A communion service ended the first day.

Gourmet meals and nutrition breaks were served to about 200 delegates and visitors.

Presbyterial

Central Alberta Spring Meeting was held at St. Andrew's, Red Deer, The theme was *Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all people* (NKJV).

President Lois Snider-Norby welcomed Synodical President Marg Befus (who later installed the officers), and Makram, Mona and Chris Barsoum.

Mona spoke of her work in the Arabic-speaking Presbyterian Church in Toronto and the prime importance of prayer in our groups.

After a potluck lunch we saw maps, charts and pictures shown by Chris using power point as Makram told us of the administrative and technical side of the SAT-7 program. It was agreed to send the offering for the day to International Ministries for the SAT -7 work.

Westminster Presbyterial met at St. Paul's, Mission, BC on September 10 for the annual Fall Rally. The bright, sunny autumn day brought women from Vancouver and all churches in the Fraser Valley.

The meeting began with devotions by Rev. R. Ross, minister of St. Paul's. In remembrance of the 9/11 event he reminded us to think of Psalm 91:1 which was the theme of his inspiring message.

Business was convened by Presbyterial President Sheila Jakus. Before lunch there was time to join in small groups and share in a discussion on Mission and Outreach. Following lunch a hymn sing-along was enhanced by a duet as well as a trio.

Sheila Jakus introduced guest speaker Dr. Richard Schwarz, who with his wife, has been working in Nepal since 1995. His interesting talk with slides, gave us a vivid picture of his work in reconstructive surgery.

His presentation reminded us of the great need to respond to the words of our Lord to go into the world. In just the past 50 years, 400,000 Nepalese have become Christian.

Local

George Beverley Shea recently visited his home town of **Winchester, Ontario**. The popular singer, who has been with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association for many years, was born in Winchester. He sang in concert with Winchester's best gospel singers.

Everyone was inspired by the words and music of the 93-year-old Shea who usually visits yearly since he has a cottage in the Gatineaus. While there, Shea unveiled signs at five entrances to the town, noting his birthplace.

George Beverley Shea

A happy event was celebrated in August at Grey Gables, **Markdale, ON** when Mrs. **Edna Spence** was honoured on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Edna was raised in Owen Sound area where she received her early education. She taught school at Bothwell's Corners before moving to Toronto where her husband was a barber.

On their return to Owen Sound, Edna joined the WMS at St. Andrew's. Several of the WMS members went to Markdale to help Edna celebrate her special day.

A former pupil, Mrs. Clare Ellis, whom many readers will remember as a past president of Council Executive, paid tribute to her former teacher, Edna, at the September meeting.

Miss Jean Sinclair

A highly respected member of **St. Andrew's, Owen Sound, Miss Jean Sinclair,** passed away on August 5, 2002 in her 97th year. Jean taught elementary school for almost 40 years. She shared her musical talents with many people, both in church and at school.

Jean was a choir member and Junior Choir leader, was president of both the

Afternoon and Evening WMS. She was a CGIT leader, taught Sunday School and was an enthusiastic camp leader over the years.

A founding member of St. Andrew's, Owen Sound, she will be fondly remembered for her dedication and humour.

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret (Peggy) Ramsay

Margaret (Peggy) Ramsay

It is with a sense of personal loss that I share the news of the passing on September 24, 2002 of Miss Margaret (Peggy) Ramsay of Brantford, Ontario in her 95th year.

Miss Ramsay was the last remaining charter member of Central Presbyterian Church, Brantford. She was also the last survivor of the Class of 1928 of the Missionary and Deaconess Training School. The school was re-organized following church union, and she was in the first class to graduate following the reorganization.

On her graduation, she was appointed by the Women's Missionary Society to Formosa, from which she was recalled during World War II. After a brief period in Western Canada, she was sent, again by the WMS to work in Guyana.

She worked there until about 1970 when she returned to Canada and completed her years of service with the WMS by working in the office of what had become Ewart College. She retired to Brantford where she has been active in both the church and the local WMS group until very recently. She led Bible Study groups well into her '80's.

Peggy Ramsay was one of the last of an older generation of women church workers. She served faithfully and well, and she displayed great integrity and dedication in the work to which she was called.

Peggy had few close relatives. During her last months, and especially her last weeks she was regularly visited and cared for by Rev. Alex and Ruth MacDonald, also former Guyana missionaries, her Guyanese "family", and especially by the women of Central Church to whom she was a much loved and respected friend.

The funeral was held on Saturday, September 28 in Central Church, Brantford.

On a personal note, Peggy's sister, Netta Corman, was my CGIT leader and Sunday School teacher. I have heard about Peggy and her work all my life, even though I only came to know her in person after she retired. She will be missed.

Marjorie Ross

Readers Write (continued from p 23- recover from the shock of being tempted and then calm our mind, and gently and quietly pursue our aim. When the soul seeks deliverance from the temptation of anxiety because of its love of God, the soul waits on God's provision with patience, gentleness, humility and calmness.

Unholy sorrow, on the other hand, corrupts the soul to anguish, indolence, indignation, jealousy, envy, and impatience which upsets the soul into vain fears, making one mentally lazy and adverse to spiritual connection. Self-love leads us into trifling yet dangerous acts of injustice. Self-love as the central motivator clouds the purity of intention. One may experience an eager excitement when relying upon oneself alone and not upon God. But raw enthusiasm is no substitute for God's presence.

Be firm in your resolution to serve God. This resolution will weaken trifling temptations of vanity, vexation, envy, jealousy, etcetera as mere annoyances like buzzing flies and not a torment of the soul. Your resolution is your most powerful tool because your constant acts of love of God drives them away. Fighting and talking with temptations only cause their lingering.

What virtuous behaviour can you engage in which is in direct contradiction to the temptation? After such an act, turn to Jesus who bore our sins on the cross and mentally kiss his feet. In time of temptation Jesus does not forsake us but he is still our Savior and Lord.

Janet Wiebe,
St. Catherines, ON

TAPE MINISTRY ENJOYED!

I especially enjoy the letters from missionaries. I try to read a devotional each day from large print Upper Room, read yours (June Stevenson's) in January.

Agnes Fletcher, Merlin, ON

Anyone in need of a gift suggestion? I have a dear friend who for a number of years has given me a subscription to the Glad Tidings on tape. This is a gift of love that I read all year.

Your faithful reader,
Joyce MacVicar, London, ON

I appreciate this service very much, and look forward to receiving the tape. Thank you.

Helen Bennett, Cobourg, ON

Thank you for the tape of the July/August Glad Tidings. I enjoyed the whole tape, particularly the poetry.

I am encouraged by the news of the meetings and from those abroad.

Thank you for enabling me to keep abreast of the WMS and to still be able to feel a part of it.

Sincerely,
Joan C. Laird, Kincardine, ON

Bible Trivia

Compiled by Eve Stickland

Did you know.
"The most widely translated Bible book is the Gospel of Mark-the shortest of the four Gospels about Jesus. It's available in about 900 languages."

How to Get Into the Bible by Stephen M. Miller, Thomas Nelson Publishers

Forward in Faith

As I wondered what I should write for this final column of 2002, I thought of the title, "Forward in Faith." Do we really go "forward in faith" as often as we should? Or do many of us just take the future for granted?

This question came to mind with the present world situation. Newspapers inform us that some people in Afghanistan have nothing to eat but grass! The media also advises us that people in several African countries (i.e. Malawi, Sudan) have little food to eat. This includes thousands of children.

One cannot help but ask the question, "Why have we in North America been so richly blessed, when so many in other parts of the world have so little?"

As I think of this inequality, I ask myself, "What can we as Christians do to help in these situations?" Should we not be giving more of our resources, so that the Gospel can be spread through the world to people in hopeless situations, and relief given in areas of special need? Jesus' advice to the young man, who had "great possessions," was to sell them and give the proceeds to the poor.

I do not believe we are expected to sell all our possessions but I do feel we could give more of our resources so that there will not be such great disparity in the world.

I feel I must increase my givings for Christian work through the many outreach activities of our Church and WMS. I trust other members of the Society will feel as I do so that we will not only reach our goal but exceed it so we may meet more of the needs with which we are confronted. God bless you as you consider this matter.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

Hopefully by now your group will have returned the Glad Tidings list of subscribers for your congregation. By the time this issue comes out we will have received most of the subscription lists and begun processing the lists. However, there are several groups we will have to follow up on who have not returned the list, which costs us money. It is helpful to have the lists in the office by the deadline date of November 1, 2002 to ensure that the changes/additions/deletions are processed for the January/February 2003 issue.

Some reasons for delays have been the GT secretary has forgotten to check the deadline date; has had difficulty collecting money; or the group has disbanded or transferred to another group list and not informed us.

Promotion of the Glad Tidings is an ongoing process; it does not end after the subscription lists have returned to the office. Perhaps a goal for the next couple of years might be to increase subscriptions by giving a gift subscription to someone who might wish to receive the magazine. A subscription to the Glad Tidings will make a nice Christmas gift for a special friend or relative.

P.S. Receipts from Presbyterials to September 30th amount to $360,684. Our total estimates for 2002 are $1,089,750.

We can make a difference!

Learning to read and write opens up a world of opportunities. Literacy helps people conduct business, travel, and learn what is happening in the world. Literate parents can help their children with schoolwork. In 2001 PWS&D helped the Fraternidad of Mayan Presbyterials make a difference in remote communities in Guatemala by teaching 109 women and 30 men the basics of reading and writing.

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www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Bunty Hutton
St. Andrew's, Barrie, ON

Margaret (Peggy) Ramsay
Central, Brantford, ON

Judy Davidson
First, Chatham, ON

Mrs. Dorothy Innes
Glencoe, ON

Mrs. Eleanor Bodlick
Knox, Guelph, ON

Mrs. Ella Aitken
Knox, Holstein, ON

Mrs. Gretta Mooney
St. Matthew's, Ingleside, ON

Margaret Alexander
Mary Jane McCaw
New St. James, London, ON

Velma Greene
Mrs. William Perrin
Knox, Midland, ON

Edith Lauretta Simmons
Chippawa, Niagara Falls, ON

Jean McKibbon
Knox, Ottawa, ON

Miss Jean Sinclair
Mrs. Jean Stevens
St. Andrew's, Owen Sound, ON

Irene Stewart
Westminster, Paisley, ON

Jean Hamilton McLaren
St. Andrew's Ross, Renfrew, ON

Mrs. Mabel Scott
Sandhill, ON

Mrs. Joyce King
Westminster, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Grace Irvine
Glebe, Toronto, ON

Anna Mary Hamilton
Fraser, Tottenham, ON

Imogene Izett
St. Andrew's, Welland, ON

Jean Stevens
St. Paul's, Wiarton, ON

Elizabeth Shobridge
Willowdale, ON

Mrs. Nora Angus
St. Paul's, Winchester, ON

Mrs. Lilian Strang
Knox, Woodstock, ON

Behind A New Door

As we reminisce on the year that's now gone,
Are we shedding a tear or two
Because of the many chances we missed?
Or the things that we didn't do?
Like the letters we'd write, or the people we'd call?
Or the dreams we said we'd pursue?
Or the weight we would lose, or a habit we'd drop?
Is this our year in review?

Now we stand on the brink of a brand new year,
A year that's untarnished, and clean.
We are handed a play, with the pages blank,
A clear slate, an empty screen.
We think in our minds how we'll write the plot
A perfect, unblemished scene.
We'll make up for the flaws that the old plays have had,
And the errors that have been.

So we dream of some ways to improve ourselves;
And we list resolutions galore,
Knowing all very well that few will be kept:
We have seen it happen before.
But we'll not give up hope. We will face day by day
Any challenge the year has in store.
We will tackle our problems, face up to our foes:
In this play, *behind a new door*.

Let us stand in front of the mirror now
With a smile from ear to ear,
At the close of this play of the year:
We snatched at the chances that floated our way;
We were kind to the ones we hold dear.
We have played our part well. Oh, there's been no cause
To shed one single tear!

Helen Dowd

Glad Tidings is printed
on recycled paper

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